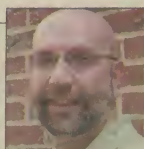


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**Different path for gay marriage?**  
New web site and open letter hope  
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**Pair of queens**  
Meet gay art couple  
Gilbert & George.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 37 • 9 September 2004

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## Measure seeks to restrict sex education

by Matthew S. Bajko

Gay rights leaders are keeping an eye on an antigay ballot measure, that if passed by voters, would restrict the type of sex-related instruction taught in California schools.

Cleared by the secretary of state's office and now in the signature gathering stage, the measure has been dubbed the "Civil Rights for Families" initiative and is being pushed by Republican businessman Tony Andrade, the petition manager behind the drive to recall Governor Gray Davis in 2003. While the initiative summary on Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's Web site seems innocuous — it says only that it "prohibits public elementary school instruction on specified sex-related subjects" — the actual language of the measure lumps homosexuality with bestiality and pedophilia as part of those topics targeted.

Called "dangerous and offensive" by Equality California, the state's largest LGBT lobbying group, the initiative would require schools to notify parents "[b]efore homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, sadism, masochism, sodomy, pederasty, pedophilia, transvestitism, bisexuality, transgenderism, transsexuality, necrophilia, domestic partnerships, cunnilingus, fellatio, orgies, or masturbation may be taught in any public school setting in the presence of any pupil in grades seven to 12, inclusive, the school shall notify the parent or guardian of the pupil in writing no more than 15 days and no less than 10 days in advance, and obtain the parent's or guardian's written approval."

The measure also would outlaw the instruction of any of those topics in any public school setting in the presence of students in kindergarten through sixth grade. It also would mandate that schools send parents notices titled "Request for Parental Approval of Specified Sexual Instruction" printed at the top of the page in boldface and at least 16-point type.

The notices would be required to include the date, time, and location of the instruction, as well as the name of the teacher or administrator in charge. Parents would be given descriptions of the information to be taught, including copies of any curriculum, text, illustration

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Geoffrey Kors

## Little Mercy for Derek Silva tenants

by Cynthia Laird



Derek Silva tenants Jay Davis, left; Roxanne Lewis, holding Lucky Leone; and Julio Moreno were critical of Mercy Housing during the construction project.

Mercy Housing, which recently completed a substantial renovation to the Derek Silva AIDS housing complex in San Francisco, has been ordered by the Human Rights Commission to undergo staff training in the wake of three complaints filed by tenants who accused the agency of inflicting undue hardship and not paying the rent while they lived off site during the rehab work.

Rosalba Navarro, housing developer at Mercy, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, September 7 that the HRC's investigation — which included a mediation session about a month ago — found no evidence that the non-profit agency had not paid the rent for clients. A charge that Mercy had unreasonable demands in having Derek Silva tenants sign new leases was also unfounded, she said.

The primary change with the new leases is that tenants now pay 30 percent of their rent, as required by Section 8, she said.

Navarro conceded this week that a lack of communication on Mercy's part may have been partly to blame for the late notice fiasco, in which some tenants who moved off site

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## New captain for Mission Station

by Kevin Davis

San Francisco Mission District police station's newly appointed captain, homegrown John Goldberg, brings a wide range of experience and ideas on community policing, beat officers, and community events to the "awesome responsibility" of commanding 107 line officers, 14 sergeants, and four lieutenants covering the city's most diverse neighborhoods.

He took over his duties two days after being assigned to the position by Chief Heather Fong on Saturday, August 28.

Unlike prior Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales, who brought undercover narcotics experience and controversy to his role, Goldberg, 47, has spent most of his 25-year career as a patrol officer in uniform, but also served in the budget finance office and Bureau of Investigations.

There is a "comfort level in visibility as a deterrent to crime," he said in a September 1 interview at the station. His varied duties have given him experience as the "public face" of the department.

The Mission District station serves the Castro, among other areas, and reaction to Goldberg was generally positive, although some LGBT leaders and others called for more officers on the streets.

"I'd like to see more visibility — community policing — so more uniforms on the street, not as much undercover," said Bernal Heights resident and District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammann, who worked with Mission Station on last October's Immigrant Pride Day obtaining street closure permits.

"There's all kinds of stuff they could do to curtail violence, gang activity, and drug dealing," said openly gay District 9 supervisory candidate Miguel Bustos, who lives at 24th and Harrison streets. "It's right in front of you — all down Mission and all down 24th Street. This has been going on for a long time and only getting attention lately for the most



SFPD Captain John Goldberg now oversees Mission Station.

part. It's a reality no one has really paid attention to help stop.

"I don't see the beat cops," added Bustos who attends Mission Station's monthly community meetings. "There's a need for consistency."

"The chief has promised, and the mayor has made a commitment, that we're going to add some beat cops," said Goldberg. "Mission Station is fortunate to have a lot of undercover plainclothes work. We have made dramatic improvements in prostitution-related crime and drug-related crime in the area. On the other hand, more officers in plainclothes means less visible officers. With beat officers there's a comfort level in that visible deterrence."

"I want to underscore the police role here is not everything," added Ammann. "They are an important part of the equation, but

not the only part. When appropriate, there's also peer counseling."

Goldberg comes to Mission Station with a "good reputation," said Castro beat Officer Lisa Frazer, who works closely with Department of Human Services outreach workers as the front line of contact with the city's chronic homeless. "He's supposed to be a very thoughtful kind of guy. He's not making changes right away. He's getting a feel for people's needs."

"He seemed like a very nice guy and very willing to work with everyone," said Jane Warner, with the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, a private company that patrols area businesses. Warner is also a board member of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro and is involved with planning for the Halloween street party. "I think he'll be good for the Castro and the gay and lesbian community."

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# LGBT school board candidates on the stump

by Tyson Gillfillan

**H**eather Hiles wants her kids to be able to come home. When her ex-partner moved to Canada, their two children went too – in part because the schools are better.

So when Mayor Gavin Newsom asked Hiles to serve on the school board as a mid-term appointee, she saw her opportunity to help improve San Francisco's public schools.



Heather Hiles

Hiles says she isn't finished and wants to keep her seat on the San Francisco Board of Education. She isn't alone in a crowded field of 12 candidates vying for four open board seats – each seeking to serve four-year terms developing policy for K-12 public schools in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Nor is she the only candidate out. Hiles is joined by incumbent Mark Sanchez, an area middle school teacher, and Joel Springer III, a former teacher and Freemason. As the openly gay contenders in this election, Hiles, Sanchez, and Springer typify the city's diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and political ideologies. But they are unified by one common dream: to make San Francisco public schools quality institutions in which all children can prosper.

## Important to the LGBT community

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, the first openly gay man to serve on the San Francisco Board of Education, has endorsed both Hiles and Sanchez. "The



Mark Sanchez

LGBT community needs representation on the school board. When I was elected, [LGBT] parents were afraid to step forward out of fear of endangering their kids," said Ammiano.

According to Kevin Gogin of SFUSD support services for sexual minority youth, "It's important for the entire community to be involved in the educational process, and how it's administered." Through the work of former school board members like Ammiano, SFUSD boasts being the first school district in the country to completely integrate counseling, programming and special outreach efforts to gay, lesbian, and questioning youth.

For Dave DeCicco, spokesman for the Victory Fund, a national organization that promotes LGBT candidates, having openly gay people serve on the school board is an important political step for the entire community.

"School boards are the most localized districts, generally serving the smallest constituencies out of any public officials," said DeCicco. "And people who know their elected officials well tend to be more concerned with the quality of their schools, health care, and government than the sexual orientation of the candidates."

"However," said DeCicco, "there are still districts in America where well-regarded, immensely qualified gay public servants are excluded from office because of prejudice ... 13 states have no LGBT people serving at any level of government, and 26 states lack LGBT representation in their legislatures." School board elections

are important, said DeCicco, "because they can be viable starting grounds for people looking to enter the larger political arena."

## Entrepreneurial principals

Springer agrees, but feels that using a seat on the board "solely as a political stepping stone [would be] disgraceful." Springer, a native San Franciscan who currently lives in the Castro, is running on a platform of student achievement, budget accountability, and entrepreneurial principals. His educational philosophy follows the "Seven Keys of Success" in William Ouchi's book, *Making Schools Work*.



Joel Springer III

For Springer reform starts locally. "Neighborhood schools allow kids to use the facilities after school, for parents to be involved without having to travel across town, and for teachers to be vital members of the community." Supporting what he calls the "parent-teacher-student tripod" is essential to a good public educational system. "Serving on the George Washington High School Alumni Association board, I've been shocked to see teachers having to ask outside organizations for equipment donations. Things like [window] blinds ... adequate text books ... things that used to be supplied by the schools."

No stranger to the political process, Springer is also serving his second term as vice president of the Log Cabin Republicans' San Francisco chapter.

## A teacher's perspective

Although school board elec-  
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**NEW!**



# New contest for safe-sex messages

by Matthew S. Bajko

Back in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, HIV prevention messages sprang up from within the gay community practically overnight. Those early posters and flyers had a tone of friend talking to friend. What needed to be said got said.

Over the years those messages became watered down versions of the originals. Collectively referred to as the "condom code," gay men began to tune them out. Under federal dictate, anything that promoted gay sex was banned. Risqué images and messages resulted in denunciations by social conservatives and investigations by federal health inspectors. AIDS agencies

decided what they saw as censorship but found their hands tied by a lack of unrestricted funding to pay for more controversial messages.

Now gay men are once again taking it upon themselves to put out messages and images they say the community needs to see. Following in the footsteps of similar contests in Seattle and Los Angeles, four local organizations committed to the health of gay men are sponsoring a safe-sex poster contest where there are few limitations on the messages and images contestants can use.

"We're really looking for a whole new take on healthy graphics — possibly controversial, radical, explicit. Something that would not be approved by Senator Santorum," said Eros owner Buzz

Bense, referring to Rick Santorum, the Pennsylvania Republican who likened gay sex to bestiality.

Called "Open Up," the contest is the brainchild of Bense, who promotes safe sex at his Castro sex club. After reading about similar contests, Bense decided to promote one in San Francisco and enlisted help from Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, gay-owned Better World Advertising, a social marketing firm, and the *Bay Area Reporter*, the city's oldest gay newspaper.

"I am really angry at the restrictions created by government around delivering health messages to gay men. I am enraged," said Bense. "The AIDS service organizations have been intimidated by

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# City files opening volley in same-sex marriage case

by Matthew S. Bajko

Throwing the first punch in what it has termed "The Big Case," the city attorney's office and progay groups struck directly at conservative, antigay groups' arguments that marriage must be set in stone as an institution between a man and a woman as the city opens its case for same-sex marriage.

In legal arguments filed last week with San Francisco Superior Court, the city's lawyers argue any defense of marriage acts are irrational and must be struck down. "Regardless of whether the marriage ban was constitutional when adopted, it cannot now survive strict scrutiny, or even genuine rational basis review," City Attorney Dennis Herrera and a team of 17 lawyers wrote in the brief filed Thursday, September 2 as part of its legal assault against provisions of the state's Family Code, which restricts marriage to opposite-sex couples.

In targeting civil marriage, which the city defines as "a cornerstone of American society," the lawyers denounced "recent debate about protecting the 'institution' of civil marriage against incursions by gay men and lesbians, or even its 'definition,'" arguing instead that "civil marriage has never been a static institution. Far from it."

Marriage, argues the city, changes with the times, evolving

with each generation's changing needs, values, and understanding of an always-evolving society. The lawyers contend that "marriage... maintains its social relevance precisely because it is flexible, not fossilized."

The city seeks a writ of mandate to force state Registrar of Vital Statistics Michael Rodrian to issue gender-neutral marriage license application forms and instruct local registrars to administer the marriage laws without regard to sex. In seeking a court order to compel state authorities to acknowledge the right of same-sex couples to marry, Herrera contends that the continued exclusion of gay men and lesbians from marriage rights is "unsupportable under any standard of judicial scrutiny."

"With our opening brief today, San Francisco asserts the long-held principle that discrimination is not merely detrimental to the minority it singles out, but to the

majority that would abide it," Herrera said after announcing that the brief had been filed. "The fact is that without full recognition of gay and lesbian families through marriage, San Francisco is limited in its ability to protect the equal rights of its citizens, and harmed in ways tangible and otherwise by an injustice that has no place in 21st century California."

As well as making civil rights arguments for doing so, the city has also put forth economic concerns it has in not being allowed to wed gays and lesbians. According to estimates by City Controller Ed Harrington, the ban on same-sex marriages is costing the city \$15.3 to \$19.6 million in lost revenue each year. The ban also forces the city to spend upwards of \$13.5 million worth of public health and social services for people who would not qualify for the funds if they were married. Due to gay-wedding related purchases

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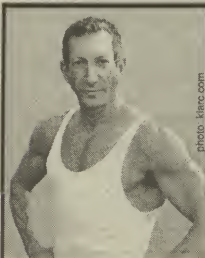
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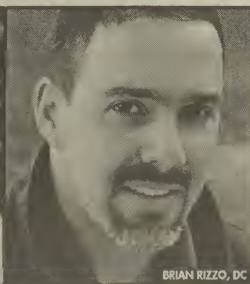
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# News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

## Memorial for PAWS dog

Trixie, a beloved Rhodesian Ridgeback dog that was cared for by volunteers through Pets Are Wonderful Support, died recently and her adopted family is holding a memorial service Tuesday, September 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 5235 Diamond Heights Boulevard, in the community room next to the manager's office. The building is across the street from the Diamond Heights Safeway.

Steve Wells and John Glorioso, who cared for Trixie for about 18 months, said she would be missed by many who had seen her in the neighborhood. Laura Nelson, director of client services for PAWS, echoed those sentiments.

"She was pretty popular in the Castro neighborhood," Nelson said.

PAWS provides volunteers to help people with HIV/AIDS care for their animal companions, and Trixie was a client for years, Nelson said, adding that many volunteers walked Trixie and helped her when her previous owner could not. She had several foster homes and was a comfort to many who suffered from HIV/AIDS.

Wells and Glorioso adopted Trixie and "provided her with love, rest, play, and a stable home in which to live out her remaining time," the couple said in an e-mail. "She spent her last months cohabitating with her dads, and her 'siblings,' three cats named Elvis, Nikkita, and Apache."

Wells and Glorioso ask that people planning to attend next week's memorial bring pictures, memories, and stories to share.

Plans are in the works for a

memorial to Trixie in PAWS' South of Market office.

## Breast cancer benefit

The Breast Cancer Emergency Fund is having a special benefit Wednesday, September 15, starting at 8 p.m. at the Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd Street in San Francisco. Entitled "The Wet Dream Lesbure Review" the event is billed as a "strip club for women and transgender men and women only." Admission is \$15 at the door.

Along with great raffle prizes, including gift certificates from Glamorama, Felicitas Fetish, and more, a St. Andrew's cross will be auctioned off. Lesbure favorites such as Mahogany Blaze and Cookie will also be featured. For more information, e-mail wetdreamlesburequereview@yahoo.com.

## AIDSGrove seeks stories

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is seeking personal stories and subjects for a film. Award-winning Bay Area filmmaker Abrahams Wilson is currently working on a documentary film about the national memorial. Wilson is looking for stories showing the impact of AIDS and the importance of the memorial, stories showing how the AIDS grove has been meaningful to people with AIDS and their loved ones, and unfolding stories soon to take place in the grove.

Michael Weiss, the film's co-producer and a grove board member, sees the documentary as "a unique opportunity to capture the spirit, the emotion, and the soulful qualities of the memorial for audiences all over the country."

People with compelling stories

about the grove should write a summary (500 words or less) and mail it to: National AIDS Memorial Film Project, c/o Open Eye Pictures, 475 Gate 5, Sausalito, CA 94965. Submissions can also be faxed to (415) 332-3256 or e-mailed to aidsmemorial@openeyepictures.com. The deadline is October 1 to be considered for inclusion in the documentary, but personal stories will continue to be collected as they arrive.

For more information, call the grove at (415) 750-8340 or visit [www.aidsmemorial.org](http://www.aidsmemorial.org).

## 'Art for Life' Sunday

Face to Face Sonoma County AIDS Network in Santa Rosa is hosting its 17th annual "Art for Life" auction Sunday, September 12. The event, a benefit for the agency's programs, takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Avenue, in Santa Rosa. Admission is \$50. This year's event features a Hawaiian theme and "aloha" attire is encouraged. A "Big Kahuna" live wine auction will also take place during the event, starting at 3:45 p.m.

About 250 pieces of art will be available for sale, and can be previewed today (Thursday, September 9), from noon to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, September 10, from noon to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, September 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The pre-auction exhibit is free.

Island-style refreshments from top restaurants will be featured, along with various wines. And, raffle prizes will be offered; tickets are \$5 each or 25 for \$100.

For more information, call (707) 544-1581. Some of the artists can be previewed at [www.f2f.org](http://www.f2f.org). ▽

# Cisneros tapped for treasurer

by Cynthia Laird

Jose Cisneros has been appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom to succeed Susan Leal as city treasurer, meaning that an openly gay Latino man will replace a Latina lesbian as steward of the city's investment, banking, and tax collecting duties.

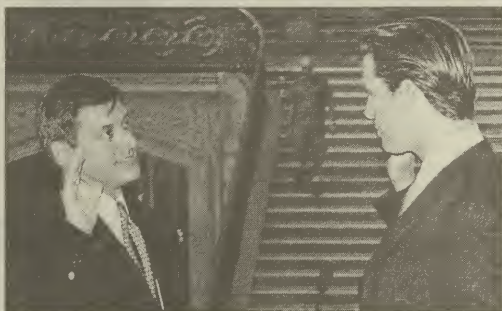
Cisneros, 48, was sworn in Wednesday, September 8 to the position. Prior to being named treasurer, Cisneros served as deputy general manager for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

"Jose Cisneros will bring to the city treasurer's office the same level of expertise and commitment that he has shown in his management of various extensive capital improvement projects," Newsom said at a press conference Thursday, September 2 announcing the appointment. "Jose will further the city's commitment to diversity as a new member of the city's elected family. I look forward to working closely with him as our new treasurer."

Cisneros fills the unexpired term that Leal vacated when she took over as general manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. He must face voters in November 2005.

"I'm very, very excited," Cisneros said of his appointment.

Leal praised the appointment. "To me, he's got it all — the qualifications, he's gay, and a person of color," she told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, September 7. "It was great news to me."



Mayor Gavin Newsom, right, swears in Jose Cisneros as city treasurer.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who's known Cisneros for more than 10 years, also praised the appointment. "I think he's going to be an incredible treasurer. He's smart, honest, and has the management and fiscal skills."

Cisneros's partner, Mark Kelleher, said Cisneros has always wanted to be in public service, and noted his experience in banking while at the Bank of Boston, where he managed financial product portfolios of over \$100 million. Cisneros has also worked in financial services for IBM and Lotus Development Corporation.

Michael Goldstein, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, said the organization was generally supportive.

"I think the Milk Club is generally pleased that the mayor decided on a seemingly qualified candidate who is gay and comes from the Mexican American community," Goldstein said in an e-

mail. "While Cisneros's past support of naming rights for Muni stations may be problematic and a concern, to be fair, I believe a wait and see stance is appropriate in the hope that politics is left out of the treasurer's office."

Cisneros addressed the Muni station issue at an informal gathering in Dufty's office last week, saying the remark was "an innocent comment" that came out of a meeting to look at all opportunities to increase revenue for the transit agency. The comment, however, made its way into the papers and was criticized by many.

Cisneros previously served on the Parking and Traffic Commission and was a board member of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

Laura Spanjan, the Alice Club co-chair, was pleased with the appointment. "If anyone can fill Susan Leal's shoes, it's Jose Cisneros." ▽





Candidate Tys Sniffen speaks at a District 5 forum as fellow candidates, from right, Jim Siegel, Michael O'Connor, Ross Mirkarimi, Robert Haaland, Emmett Gilman, and Lisa Feldstein look on.

## District 5 forum draws a crowd

by Kevin Davis

Seven District 5 supervisorial candidates – including two from the LGBT community – advocated and promoted their strongest, most pertinent experience and visions in a forum last week, and all had diverse backgrounds working both within and outside governmental institutions and neighborhood groups. Their detailed knowledge of civic workings and inspired ideas for improving district and citywide problems meant the dialogue rarely devolved into vague platitudes.

The event, held last Wednesday, September 1 at St. Mary's Hospital's Morrissey Auditorium, began with introductions by the candidates: Robert Haaland, Ross Mirkarimi, Lisa Feldstein, Jim Siegel, Emmett Gilman, Michael O'Connor, and Tys Sniffen.

While there are 22 candidates in the race, SF5 Together, the sponsor, did not ask all of them to participate. It gave uninvited candidates who showed up a couple minutes at the end of the forum to present their platforms.

The candidates politely respected each other's rarely divergent opinions as moderator Carolyn Tyler from ABC7 and SF5 Together President Cheryl Brodie asked them questions generated from the audience and the organization.

Issues ranged from affordable housing and quality of life to rent control, public park privatization, healthcare, education, transportation, sunshine laws, youth programs, the city's deficit, and violent crime.

Haaland, who is transgender, noted a "false dichotomy" in the struggle between renters and homeowners and advised revisiting and tweaking last March's failed Proposition J.

Mirkarimi argued that his five-year homeownership and prior 15-years as a tenant "sensitized me to the debate" and noted his endorsement by a Cooperative Housing Association member.

Feldstein, a former planning commissioner, advocated "increased density on transit corridors," community land trusts and attracting more federal money for affordable housing while Sniffen advocated more infill building and housing above retail establishments.

Several candidates pitched the gross receipts tax as a solution to the city's deficit.

Mirkarimi advocated a "people's participatory budget process," and added "the budget process should not be predicated

on eliminating the payroll tax." "We must be more aggressive in not leaving money on the table," said Feldstein, decrying the \$300 million in cuts to city clinics while hospitals are lax on collecting medical bills.

Haaland suggested cuts from the top while Siegel advocated re-financing city loans and attracting more South Beach biotechnology business through tax breaks.

Siegel, who is gay, preserves Victorians and was involved in the Fallon Building controversy when the LGBT Community Center was being constructed.

Sniffen proposed a \$100,000 ceiling on city salaries and streamlining the permitting process. "Businesses can't get off the ground," he said.

### Safety

Community policing and neighborhood associations were solutions expounded almost unanimously on the topic of quality of life and violent crime.

Haaland suggested preventing street officers from changing beats every six months to strengthen trust in the community, while Mirkarimi urged people to survey his crime prevention public safety platform, calling District 5 "the hippest district in the city."

"Good quality of life requires the ability to live in dignity," Feldstein said to applause. "Adequate housing that's clean and safe, open space that's well-maintained, transportation that gets you where you want to go quickly and efficiently and it means adequate health care for everyone who lives here."

Siegel proposed better street lighting, restitution for criminals, and accountability from the housing authority, "the worst landlords in the city," a line that received applause and two walkouts, while Gilman, whose son attends public school, criticized dangerous intersections and stopping crime at the misdemeanor level to prevent felonies. O'Connor, who attended Public Defender Jeff Adachi's recent juvenile justice summit, stressed the need to provide youth mentorships and training.

Most candidates in the district heavy with young, single renters, strongly supported strengthening rent control with Siegel and Sniffen urged reform of the law.

Sniffen relayed "horror stories" of landlords unable to evict scary tenants while Siegel, a 32-year city resident, proposed fixing flaws in rent control. Landlords "can't recoup the cost of one house painting," he said. "I've been very fortunate to be investing in real estate and I've had a lot of opportunities that none of you in this audience will never have," said Siegel.

Haaland reminded the audience of his campaign work against 1998's Proposition E, which would have repealed rent control in owner-occupied buildings with four or fewer units. Feldstein decried the two-tiered rental housing market, advocating extending rent control to newer buildings.

Siegel claimed that current District 5 Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, who is not seeking re-election, rarely answers his calls as an example of an inaccessible representative.

"I'm not Matt," said Mirkarimi, whom Gonzalez has endorsed. "I'm flexible, principled, but a coalition builder of uncommon coalitions, a bridge builder between enclaves of the city. You can trust me whether you're left, right, or center."

On the issue of bonds and set-asides sending general fund money to Muni and the libraries, while leaving little for healthcare, Haaland cautioned about the inflexibility of budgeting by ballot measure. "The public health system is being destroyed as we speak," he said. "Public health is the most important issue facing the city."

Gilman suggested reforming Proposition 13, which he said unfairly benefits commercial property owners, to prevent the state government from routing money away.

The candidates found common ground on the need for better public transportation, increased pedestrian safety, and commended Andrew Sullivan's failed Rescue Muni ballot initiative and the Transbay Terminal project.

Haaland criticized Muni chief Michael Burns for allegedly raising his salary while cutting service and added, "We won't have 'Transit First' until we have a better commission." Mirkarimi, always with a policy paper in hand, said he just released his "Master Bike Vision."

Siegel, a daily bike rider, bucked the majority sentiment, proposing more commercial district parking lots.

Wrapping up, each candidate pledged, if elected, accessibility and an open door policy with Haaland going a step further, promising to "treat my office as an organizing center," and assured people that the resources of his office would be available to them while Mirkarimi pledged to make his a "full-service" office.

"I think of you as partners, not clients," he said.

"I want to make the city magic again," said a passionate Siegel. O'Connor stressed realistic youth programs and Fillmore Jazz District economic development. ▼



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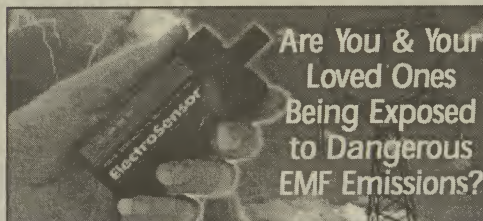
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## OPEN FORUM

## Bush must go

The recent Republican National Convention in New York demonstrated why it is imperative that President Bush be defeated in November. Time after time, party leaders used the occasion not only to demean Democrats (think Arnold Schwarzenegger's "economic girlie men" comment) and Senator John Kerry, its nominee, but to viciously attack gays and lesbians as well. From subtle jabs to direct comments by Illinois Senate candidate Alan Keyes calling us "selfish hedonists" – and saying that Vice President Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter Mary is a "selfish hedonist" too – it was just another four days of verbal gay bashing by the party that thrives on hate and division, all in the name of religion no less.

But it was President Bush's acceptance speech that embodied the contradictory and antigay attitudes so prevalent in the Republican Party today. And he was not truthful during his speech, as he talked repeatedly about all Americans being able to pursue their own dreams, when clearly the Republican Party does not include a substantial part of America – gays and lesbians – in its rhetoric or formal platform.

"Many of our most fundamental systems – the tax code, health coverage, pension plans, worker training – were created for the world of yesterday, not tomorrow," the president said. "We will transform these systems so that all citizens are equipped, prepared, and thus truly free to make your own choice and pursue your own dreams."

Let's take a closer look at that statement. Gay couples are not allowed to marry (except in Massachusetts) and cannot file joint federal tax returns. Many employers do not recognize domestic partners as eligible candidates for employee health insurance, leaving thousands of domestic partners without medical coverage; the same is true of pension plans that do not recognize domestic partners. Many states do not have employment nondiscrimination laws protecting LGBT workers, and neither does the federal government.

Later on in his speech, Bush of course threw out the proverbial red meat to the delegates, and to the millions of Americans watching at home:

Because a caring society will value its

weakest members, we must make a place for the unborn child. Because religious charities provide a safety net of mercy and compassion, our government must never discriminate against them. Because the union of a man and a woman deserves an honored place in our society, I support the protection of marriage against activist justices. And I will continue to appoint federal judges who know the difference between personal opinion and the strict interpretation of the law.

"My opponent recently announced that he's the conservative – the candidate of 'conservative values,' which must come as a surprise to a lot of his supporters."

"There are some problems with this claim. If you say the heart and soul of America is found in Hollywood, I'm afraid you are not the candidate of conservative values. If you voted against the bipartisan Defense of Marriage Act, which President Clinton signed, you are not the candidate of conservative values...."

With those words, Bush firmly demonstrated why he should not get the vote of any LGBT American; the Log Cabin Republicans recognized this when its board voted Tuesday night not to endorse the president.

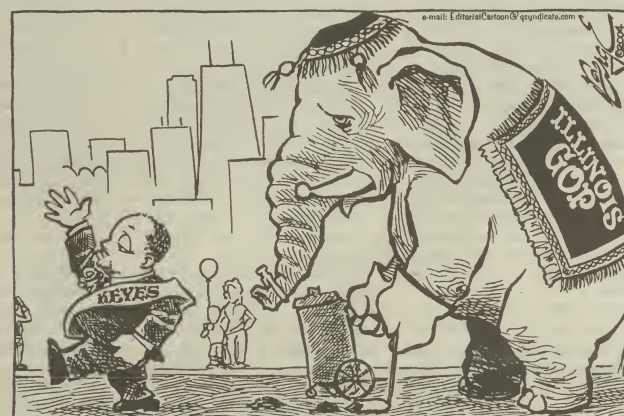
While Kerry may have his problems accepting the concept of gay marriage – which he opposes – he did stand up for us on the DOMA vote, and was the only senator up for re-election at the time to do so. He blasted the discussions on the Senate floor as "gay bashing," and supported us. Regrettably, DOMA passed, and has been used to deny us equal rights ever since.

Bush has appointed openly gay people to various posts in his administration, but has turned his back on them – and all of us – with his stubborn refusal to buck the religious fundamentalists who want to write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution with the Federal Marriage Amendment.

There is no doubt about it – Bush must go. ▼



## Editorial



NEWS ITEM: ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN SENATE CANDIDATE ALAN KEYES CALLS MARY CHENEY A "SELFISH HEDONIST"

## Others deserve credit at Stop AIDS

by Antonio Kruger

While reading the Bay Area Reporter article that covered Darlene Weide's resignation from the Stop AIDS Project ["Stop AIDS begins search for new exec. director," August 5], I wondered who the "agency officials" were that gave highlights of her tenure. My guess is that no current or former staff made up this supposed group that spoke of her "highlights." As a six year employee at Stop AIDS (whose term ended July 30), my perspective on the Weide years not only extends back through her reign as executive director, but to the beginning of her being on staff. We began on the same day.

Due to my time working with and for Weide, it required no educated guess to believe that she created her own imagined highlight list. As a result, I feel obligated to share some facts and give due credit to the men and women who helped bring innovative work into Stop AIDS and back out into the community. Knowing that Weide has always passed out blame better than credit, here is some truth to be extracted from her spin:

Our Love, the black men's program, was developed in 1999 by Marvin K. White, who took the lead in doing creative programming with black men on his own.

"HIV is No Picnic" was a tremendously effective ad campaign that came about due to Jed Herman (associate program director at the time) and the volunteer advisory group from Positive Force. The campaign messages were carried out and explained by the outreach and program staff, who, along with the volunteers, solicited and documented the overwhelmingly positive community feedback. This came about despite the fact that Weide never wanted to do the

campaign. She feared any negative feedback and dialogue within the community; that type of fear does not sound innovative or cutting edge for a leader.

Positive Force and the Plus Seminar were brought in prior to Darlene even becoming executive director. Steven Gibson (program director at the time) and the late Bob Hays (board member) wrote the contract for Positive Force, and along with Keith Folger, created the first prevention for positives program in the country. These men, along with their very involved volunteers, created the base for a program that still thrives today under current staff. If dusted, the fingerprints of Weide are nowhere to be found on this program. As for Plus, it was under the leadership of the late Alfredo Armendariz and was invited into Stop AIDS by Gibson and former board member Randy Cupp.

Plus then worked within Positive Force. One lesson for Weide to take to her next professional endeavor would be, just because change happens while you are in charge does not equate to your having had any impact on that change.

I noted that in the article, Weide made mention of her being a woman in charge of this agency. This appears to be an attempt at distracting from the real issues, as her gender has not been (and should never be) used as a weapon in validating her weaknesses as a leader or manager. The gender of the executive director is not an issue; the way that the intelligent and informed men who have been in leadership positions at Stop AIDS have been treated by this executive director is. That will be my lasting image from the past two and a half years and why, I believe, the agency has been kept from reaching its full potential.

I do acknowledge that Weide did have some positive influence on the agency. It's true that she initiated Stop AIDS programming for transgender men. It is also true that in working with the board, they were able to build an agency reserve. I can even speak to her skill at mediating conversations. There is work out there that will fit her work style and personality much better than that of actually being in charge. Being an administrator, much less a leader, is not something that we are all skilled to do.

As for Stop AIDS, this agency will move forward because of the dedicated staff and volunteers who have endured more than their fair share of professional crises. Soon, they can truly begin planning for the future and welcome in fresh leadership while getting back to the work that they do so well.

After all, it was really these staff, and a handful who have since moved on, who truly did most of all the background work and presentations as we endured continuous federal scrutiny, and successfully fought back.

Lastly, I must add that I do not pretend to speak for all staff. Some have not worked closely with Weide. Others may just have a different perspective. I respect that. However, in the interest of sharing the truth and engaging in healthy debate, allowing Weide to frame her own version of her almost three-year reign at the Stop AIDS Project would be equivalent to permitting only Bush to frame his almost four years of presidency. ▼

Antonio Kruger was the Q Action outreach manager for six years at the Stop AIDS Project.



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Earth to homosexuals

Republicans want to pass a constitutional amendment that would permanently enshrine our status as second-class citizens. They think they are better than us because they have straight sex. Well, they aren't. We deserve all of the rights and privileges they do. Love yourself enough to believe this. Respect yourself enough not to support your oppression. Do not vote Republican this fall.

Jeffery Kennedy  
San Francisco

## Cause and effect?

Some Republicans might claim that Clinton timed his heart problems to steal the Republicans' thunder from their convention. Some Democrats could claim that the convention caused it!

James Keefer  
San Francisco

## Bush's speech

After a week of purposefully avoiding the bulk of the Republican convention, I caught George W. Bush's acceptance speech.

In his speech, Bush once again reiterated that so-called traditional marriage must be protected from "activist judges." "I will continue to appoint federal judges who don't put their personal opinions over a strict interpretation of the law," he said.

Where is the compassion in calling our judges activists and writing discrimination into the Constitution?

How can restricting the constitutional rights to a whole group of Americans help to improve lives, and how is a constitutional amendment against gay marriage not government intrusion into our private lives? Bush gave us nothing but double-speak, and the only way to make sense of these political bipolar statements is to recognize that this man refuses to even see those of us in the LGBT community as people.

This president deceived us into going to war with Iraq, has taken us into an era of preemptive strikes, has led us into some of the worst economic times since the depression, has impeded personal freedoms, especially freedom of speech, and now he continues to push for a constitutional amendment, a position which puts him at odds with remarks given by his own vice president.

Please get engaged in social actions for a change in November. We also need to speak up and talk to our family members, our co-workers, our neighbors, and friends and tell them how this administration's proposed constitutional amendment is more than a restriction of 1,149 federal rights that come with marriage, but is also a statement that says there is such a thing that codifies second-class citizenship. Alarmingly, it's a statement that not only gives license to, but also encourages hatred and discrimination.

Please get involved in the struggle for social justice and civil rights for all people by joining groups like Equality California and Marriage Equality California. This October, members of MECA, PFLAG, and the Unitarian Universalist Church, along with other groups will embark upon a cross-country bus ride, the purpose of which is to show all of America that everyone deserves full marriage equality. In eight days, the marriage equality caravan will make 14 stops, culminating with a rally in Washington, D.C., a block away from the Capitol, on National Coming Out Day, October 11. This very important undertaking needs more support. The bus is full but others can join us. Believers in civil rights for everyone are meeting up with us at the Capitol. Financial assistance and sponsorship are still greatly needed. Please find out how you can get involved by visiting [www.marriageequalityca.org](http://www.marriageequalityca.org).

Kelly R. Hart, Co-Leader  
MECA, San Francisco Chapter

## Thanks to Darlene Weide

A wise man once said that "we will be judged as a community based on how we take care of one another." Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic courageous lesbians have worked hand in hand with gay men to provide vision, leadership, and hard work. Darlene Weide is one of those women. As she moves on to new adventures, it is a good time for us to thank her for her work and her commitment.

The announcement of Darlene's departure from the Stop AIDS Project ["Stop AIDS begins search for new exec. director," August 5] is a time to thank her for the leadership she provided. In addition to the challenges of running a nonprofit agency in difficult financial times, Darlene was on the front line when right-wing conservatives declared war on free speech and targeted HIV prevention as their forum. Darlene was steadfast, articulate, and resolute. In addition, she was effective on steering Stop AIDS through multiple federal audits and reviews. This was a service to the agency, to our community, and to all nonprofits who are partners with government.

Darlene and her leadership will be missed. The work will continue and Stop AIDS commitment to

gay men will continue to be critically important to the health of our community. Darlene's tenure guaranteed that and she deserves our thanks for her work and our best wishes as she continues to serve our communities in new projects.

Steven Tierney  
San Francisco

## Racism in the Castro

Badlands' alleged treatment of women and people of color has been under intense debate during the last few months. Some issues have arisen that I think are important to analyze before people formulate their opinions about this bar's treatment of some of our brothers and sisters. I am not completely aware of the issues behind the treatment of women at Badlands, but I have researched the racism some people of color have experienced at this bar. Many European Americans have become quite opinionated and have forgotten the importance of stopping racism. In this society of ours, racism and homophobia go hand in hand with each other and feed off one another. One kind of oppression is no better than the other, and undoubtedly, the feelings felt by the victims are identical in each scenario. Hate is the universal theme in racism, sexism, and homophobia. Most of us, because of our sexual orientations, have experienced hate, which is why so many of us seek refuge in the Castro.

I have lived in San Francisco for about 14 months and have seen a pattern at Badlands over the short period of time I've been here. I have met some of Les Natali's employees and I consider them friends of mine. As European Americans, they have recognized and acknowledged Natali's practices of racism toward people of color in a variety of situations. They have especially been very specific about who encounters racism because it is targeted at only a certain group of people - African Americans. Due to the alleged harassment they have experienced, African Americans are scarce at Natali's bar.

Additionally, we all know that San Francisco is one of the most diverse cities in America today, yet the fact that Natali only employs seven people of color out of 49 employees is quite telling. I will be the first to admit that because I do not look like a person of color I have not confronted the racism that lurks in Badlands and I do rely on second-hand experiences. But because of my interests in ethnic studies and my academic background, studying what people of color encounter in society, I have become more sensitive to the issues and realities faced by ethnic and racial minorities. Based on what I know, I can honestly conclude that Badlands is not a safe haven for all homosexuals. Sadly, African Americans are not welcome at Badlands because of the color of their skin. And Natali's recent implementation of a hip-hop night, in my opinion, only furthers the segregation he attempts to put into action in his bar. How should African Americans interpret such inaction other than "too little too late"? If he was truly innocent about all these allegations, then why implement such a change now?

And on the issue of Badlands posting notices that some people may have to provide a second piece of identification - how many of us carry two pieces of state-issued identification? Even post-9/11 airport security is not as demanding as Natali's actions toward people of color. A pattern has emerged surrounding Natali's excuses for his actions, and other racist figures in our history have certainly used those same excuses to exclude people of color.

We should step back into history and remind ourselves that the Castro emerged as a safe space for homosexuals - and Natali has clearly violated and insulted part of the homosexual rights movement. The Castro, as we know it, emerged from the struggles our brothers and sisters endured; hence, this should be respected at all costs.

Adam S. Mehis  
San Francisco

## Help Musgrave's opponent

Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado) is the principal sponsor of the Federal Marriage Amendment in the House of Representatives. Musgrave wants to permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution to marginalize gay men and women and make us second-class citizens.

Musgrave is in a tight re-election battle in her Colorado district, with recent polls showing her ahead of her Democratic opponent, state Senator Stan Matsunaka, by just 48 percent to 45 percent. Matsunaka is endorsed by Howard Dean's organization, Democracy for America. Therefore, I am respectfully suggesting to the gay community that it is payback time for Musgrave in the only language she will understand. Send a contribution - whatever you can afford - to Matsunaka for Congress Committee, 2881 North Monroe Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538 or you can make a donation online at [www.stan2004.com](http://www.stan2004.com). I assure you that a campaign contribution to her opponent is a message Musgrave will receive loud and clear.

George Collins  
Berkeley, California

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## Mailstrom

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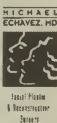


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# How boycotts work – and why they sometimes don't

by Paula Martinac

Within the past week, I've received a flurry of mass e-mail messages, encouraging GLBT people to take part in a nationwide boycott on October 8 and "drop out" of the U.S. economy for one day. This action, as stated on the boycott's official Web site ([www.boycottforequality.org](http://www.boycottforequality.org)), is designed to show the country's corporate and political powers that we are vital members of society "with significant economic presence."

"Boycott for Equality" was inspired by notable boycotts of the past, especially those organized by Gandhi in India and black civil-rights leaders in this country – precedents that demonstrated the power of the proverbial purse. But unfortunately, boycotts tend to be unsuccessful when they're broad, vague, and not clearly thought out – as is the case, I fear, with this one.

The October 8 boycott is being organized by a gay male couple who got angry about the president's decision to support the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment. Their proposed retaliation has three main elements: on that day, GLBT people and their allies should not go to work, make any purchases, or use their cell phones. It seems simple enough on the face of it, and for some of us, a very easy action to be part of.

Consider my own household. If I take off that Friday, it's likely that my openly gay boss, who owns a gay media company, won't mind; it's always a slow day for me anyway. My partner, a professor, doesn't teach classes on Friday, and there are plenty of days when neither of us needs to buy a single thing or use a cell phone. Instant boycott! Indeed, if all other GLBT people were just like us – out at work and middle-class – this boycott might be a slam dunk.

But there's a big hurdle when you ask all gay people to "drop out" of the economy – especially a weak economy in which it's hard to find a job if you lose yours. Many gay people can't be out at work because the Employment Non-Discrimination Act still hasn't passed Congress, and

maybe they're employed by companies without discrimination policies, by public schools as teachers and coaches, or by religious-run institutions. For these folks, Boycott for Equality offers a way to "drop out" but not come out: "The beauty of the boycott is you don't have to tell anyone why." In other words, just don't give a reason why you're taking the day off; you could even call in sick! The organizers call this a "silent protest."

But what sort of protest is it when no one knows what – or even if – you're protesting? Besides that, if the organizers do their job, they will capture media attention in advance – after all, one of the most important ingredients of an effective boycott is publicity. So if you can't be out at work on October 7 because you fear

losing your job, is it really safe to stay home on October 8, a day of (hopefully) well-publicized gay protest?

Another question the boycott raises is, what exactly are we proving when we opt out of capitalism in general? Aren't we also punishing gay-supportive companies that have been more forward-thinking about gay rights than our own government has? How do we reconcile that with the fact that our national gay organizations have always encouraged us to reward gay-friendly businesses with our patronage?

In contrast, most successful boycotts of the past have been highly focused. Southern buses were segregated, so black people found alternate ways to get to work. The British government imposed a salt tax on the Indian people, so they refused to buy salt and harvested their own from the ocean. California grape pickers were poorly paid, so they urged



supportive consumers to stop buying grapes. The Coors family funded antigay groups, so gay people refused to drink Coors beer and gay bars stopped stocking it. Furthermore, all of these actions took longer than a day.

Broad, sweeping boycotts, however, have historically been less effective. To protest British colonial rule, Gandhi at first tried a large-scale approach, in which Indians were not only encouraged to stop buying all British products, but also to quit their government jobs, take their children out of British-run schools, and refuse to pay taxes – a tall order. The campaign dragged on for 10 years before Gandhi narrowed his movement's focus to the salt tax, creating a successful action with widespread support in India and abroad.

I don't want to discourage any form of nonviolent GLBT activism, and if you believe in the October 8 boycott and are able to take part, you should. But instead of doing home-improvement projects that day, as the organizers suggest, consider inviting friends over to brainstorm some focused, economic-based actions that could more effectively drive home the message of gay people's second-class citizenship. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

## Marriage case

◀ page 3

and honeymoons, the city also estimates it loses \$2.1 to \$6.1 million per year from sales tax and hotel tax revenue.

The city challenged the state to show why it can use the state's constitution to exclude same-sex couples from marrying "no matter the cost to the rights of its citizens to their privacy, their liberty, and their freedom from invidious discrimination." In the end, the city's lawyers are confident that "nothing the state can say and nothing the state can do will meet this burden. The time for marriage equality has arrived."

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer's office said it would have no response until after Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer sets a deadline for it to respond. Kramer has already ruled to combine the case, *City and County of San Francisco v. State of California*, with six other lawsuits filed in San Francisco and Los Angeles by same-sex couples, gay rights groups and groups opposed to same-sex marriage. He was expected to rule Wednesday, September 8 on the matter.

"We fully expect to be able to respond to these two briefs by the deadline that the judge will establish. We are eager to move this im-

portant issue through the courts and obtain a resolution for the people of California as quickly as possible," said a statement from Lockyer's office.

The cases will eventually make their way to the state's Supreme Court, which last month ruled San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom overstepped his authority when he ordered city officials to begin marrying same-sex couples. The court also ruled that the more than 4,000 marriage licenses that were issued were invalid. But the court stressed that its decision in the case left the question of the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws up to the lower court to first determine. ▼



# The case against Bush

By Wayne Friday

For those of you who watched the Republican National Convention last week (admittedly, I caught only **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **George W. Bush's** speeches) – you must be thinking it's all over for **John Kerry**, **John Edwards**, and the Democrats. Don't believe it for a minute. Oh, sure, the Bush the Republican right loves is back – the swagger, the annoying smirk, even the presidential seal itself – all prominently front and center at Madison Square Garden as Bush made his acceptance speech, proclaiming, of course, that this world is much too perilous a place for us to even think about changing presidents.

We are, after all, in a war against international terrorism and four days of Republican rhetoric last week was clearly designed to leave the impression that only Bush, **Dick Cheney**, **Donald Rumsfeld**, and **Condoleezza Rice** can be trusted to win that war. We are talking here, incidentally, of the same war that Bush himself, in a rare moment of candor, told NBC *Today* host **Matt Lauer** was one that we "couldn't win." Of course, Bush quickly backpedaled the following day as White House spinmeisters desperately attempted to explain that the president meant something different. "He was talking about winning in the conventional sense," Bush press secretary **Scott McClellan** explained.

From the day the GOP confab opened, the Bush-Cheney crowd wrapped the party around 9/11; they say the world is much too dangerous a place to risk change in the White House now, right? Wrong. If you think for a minute the Bush crowd had an inkling of how to get out of this war they started – a war that has left 1,000 American soldiers dead and thousands more maimed for life – they would have done so before their party got under way in New York City. "Imminent threat" of nuclear war from **Saddam Hussein**? Stockpiled "weapons of mass destruction" just lying in wait in Iraq? Hey, not a mention of those two reasons by Republicans in New York last week.

Three things will take Bush down to defeat in November: his gamble (remember, this was his decision alone) to go to war in Iraq. Bush used the rational, you will recall, to remove the threat of a hostile dictator heavily armed with those now-infamous weapons of mass destruction.

A second reason Bush is in trouble politically is because he never considered a way to pay for his war; hence, deficits have accumulated in the tens of billions, the American economy is in the toilet, and the drought of jobs continues.

Third, this election is, and should well be, a referendum on the incumbent, and we must make sure that, try as he might, Bush and his war gang does not get to change the dynamics of what November 2 is really about.

Though America has never before started a war by attacking another nation, we are, nevertheless, at war, and it's a political fact that wartime presidents usually win a second term. In sorry economic times like these, a challenger of Kerry's caliber would normally



President Bush at the convention

only have to be an acceptable alternative – as Ronald Reagan was in 1980 and **Bill Clinton** was in 1992. However, it's been more than 30 years since the nation was both at war and at the same time experiencing a bad economy.

Bush has nothing to offer other than a message that the world is now too dangerous a place for Americans to change presidents.

I believe Kerry and Edwards offer Americans hope on November 2 where a second term of Bush and Cheney offers none. This

election should never be decided on the fear and hate tactics of George Bush, Dick Cheney, and Senator **Zell Miller** (D-Georgia). Some of you might not be fans of filmmaker **Michael Moore**, but as he wrote in *USA Today* last week: "John Kerry needs to trust that his victory is going to happen by inspiring the natural base of the Democratic Party – blacks, working people, women, the poor, and young people. Women and people of color make up 62 percent of this country. That's a big majority; give them a reason to come out on November 2."

No, this election isn't in the bag for Bush yet. I'm betting that Kerry takes the guy out during the presidential debates, and we get a new president in January.

## Politics and people

More on the GOP: I was fortunate enough to have several locals who attended the GOP convention keep me abreast of the goings-on via daily e-mail reports (thanks **Marc Huestis** and others). I got plenty of very amusing reports; incidentally, one of my favorite local Republicans, and a longtime valued friend, **Chris Bowman**, himself a delegate to the GOP confab, criticized John Kerry in a *Bay Area Reporter* story last week on gay Republicans for not mentioning the word "gay" during his acceptance speech in Boston. Well, okay, Chris, fair enough. But I've got a news flash for you sir – I read every word of George Bush's acceptance speech (printed in the *New York Times* (and watched it live) and guess what Chris, I couldn't find the "G" word. Any comment, Mr. Bowman?

And, the Democratic Party was gay-supportive while the Republican Party wasn't, especially in

terms of the platforms. Excerpt (from the GOP platform): "The well-being of children is best accomplished in the environment of the home, nurtured by their mother and father, anchored by the bonds of marriage. Legal recognition and the accompanying benefits should be preserved for that unique and special union of one man and one woman." Still with me, Chris?

One NYC source informed me that Representative **David Dreier** (R-California) hosted his convention party at a bowling alley in the Big Apple's heavily gay Greenwich Village (interesting locale) but the press, not surprisingly, wasn't allowed.

As for **Mary Cheney** – the GOP's poster-girl for equality for the LGBT community – I mean, did anyone really see her in New York City? Cheney was mysteriously missing from the family gathering onstage at Madison Square Garden Wednesday night following the veep's mean-spirited speech, but we're assuming she was busy somewhere working on her old man's next punch lines.

**Chrissy Gephardt** had it totally right when she told the *New York Times* last week that gay groups' disappointment with Mary Cheney was not that she is so unwilling to speak out about gay rights, but that she is working so damned hard (even reportedly on the payroll) for George Bush's re-election. "This administration wants to impose a constitutional amendment so that she has no right to live her life, and yet she is working wholeheartedly for them," Gephardt said about the Cheney daughter.

The *Chronicle's* **Phil Matier** & **Andrew Ross** referring to political consultant **Jack Davis** as an "attack dog"? No way, not the Jack Davis I've known and loved as a friend for the past 25 years. As Matier & Ross put it, Davis "made short work of **Chris Daly's** Proposition M." Ha! Davis is merely doing what he does best – political "consulting." And if City Hall's proverbial crybaby **Daly** isn't happy at Davis and Mayor **Gavin Newsom** ("Gavin is turning out to be even worse than **Willie Brown**") the supe from District 6 should get over himself. Actually, those who know Daly well tell me he's a pretty good guy, but, damn those infamous tantrums are reportedly turning off some of his closest allies.

And speaking of supervisors – those lobbying me for candidates in District 5 can forget about it; I don't live in the district (but if I did, I'd probably be voting for **Bill Barnes** or **Robert Haaland**).

Former President **Bill Clinton** underwent what doctors termed a "successful, routine" quadruple bypass operation Monday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. So many floral arrangements have been delivered that the hospital has had to ship them to other facilities in the area, and the Clinton family has asked that all messages of support for the president be sent directly to [www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org](http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org).

My "Quote of the Week" comes from syndicated columnist **Leonard Pitts** (on Bush, the National Guard weekend-wonder attacking John Kerry's distinguished war record): "Having George W. Bush question your military record must feel not unlike having **Anna Nicole Smith** question your intelligence."

And how was your week? ▼

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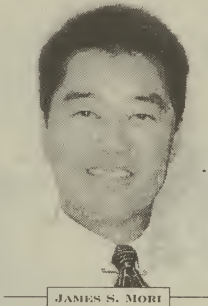
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# S&M-themed circuit party keeps on jumping

by Matthew S. Bajko

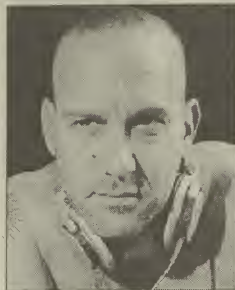
**S**an Francisco circuit parties are a dying breed, with two long-running events disappearing from the late-night scene this year. ReUnion was nowhere to be found during Pride weekend and HellBall, a dance party usually held the weekend prior to Halloween, has been axed this year.

Party promoters point to a lack of ticket sales, the high cost of renting venues, and the economic toll from both 9/11 and the dot-com bust still afflicting the Bay Area economy as the culprits of the dearth of big, yearly, all-night bashes.

"The economics right now don't support parties like that here. Things tend to move in cycles so that sort of event will come back. It is just a matter of time," said Jim Lightsey, the promoter behind HellBall who is now focused solely on producing the Halloween March of Light Parade. "If the timing is right, someone and some team will come back together to create it once again."

Yet one party seems to be bucking this trend. Now in its 16th year, RealBad, the closing night party to the Folsom Street Fair, continues to pack in crowds. Tickets are so popular for the party that promoters have changed their distribution method this year.

Last year the event raised



DJ Jack Reina will spin at RealBad

\$10,000 less than it did in 2002, when it pulled in \$70,000 for the party's beneficiaries. The party's promoters said the drop in funds was due to selling too many reduced-price tickets prior to the event.

"The party sold out two weeks in advance," explained P. Tyrone Smith, the event's marketing chair.

"Our hosts did way too good of a job selling tickets last year," added Rick Rediske, the event's chair.

To ensure the event raises the projected \$80,000 this year, which will be split between Marriage Equality California and the AIDS Emergency Fund, the promoters are only releasing half of the 1,800 available tickets to be sold by the party's hosts (which went on sale September 2) and allotting the rest for retail sale, with 100 to be sold the night of the dance. Also, ticket prices have been raised \$5 this year, with host tickets costing \$45, retail sold tickets \$65, and at

the door tickets \$75.

"Ticket prices hadn't gone up in five years," said Smith. "One hundred percent of ticket sales are divided by the beneficiaries."

The event is held at Ira Sadler's club 1015 Folsom, South of Market, which donates the space, and has sold out for the last three years. Rediske credits that success to the fact that the party is put on by volunteer-run Grass Roots Gay Rights West and benefits a good cause.

"What makes this party unique and different is we are always going back to the concept of the circle of friends," he said.

The concept remains today and gives the event an underground feel to it. In order to buy a host ticket, people need to know who to ask. While the hosts are listed on the event's Web site, [www.realbad.org](http://www.realbad.org), no contact information is provided.

"One of the original concepts of the circuit parties was friends inviting friends," explained Smith.

Hosts, who number 164, pony up \$125 a piece, and the money pays for most of the event's expenses. By not renting a space or paying for advertising, the party only costs \$22,000 to produce, said Rediske.

"We keep it simple. We don't clutter it with entertainment," said Rediske.

This year, retail tickets will go on sale September 22 at The Barking Frog, 2215 Market Street in the Castro and Mr S. Leather, 310 7th Street in SOMA. The party begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, September 26 and New York DJ Jack Reina will make his San Francisco debut. ▼

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sf aids foundation

## Contest

◀ page 3

things like the multiple audits of Stop AIDS into not taking risks. I think that is really sad and really unfortunate."

The goals of the competition, he said, "are to give prevention back to the community, to hear the messages that people want to come from the community, to hopefully reopen a conversation about what we really should be talking about in prevention and sexual health."

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, welcomes the contest. He said the time is right for the community's voice to be heard again.

"It is a terrific opportunity for people to speak articulately in ways that are important for them," said Tierney. "I think there are 60,000 gay men in San Francisco and no one agency can speak to all of them. The more messages that can get out and the more voices and presentations the better."

Kevin Roe, the community organizer at Magnet, said he hopes to see entries deal honestly about the issues around safe sex.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria: creativity; applicability to gay men in San Francisco; clarity, relevance, and accurate information; and having a "call to action."

"We are looking for positive messages. We are not looking for messages of guilt or blame," said Bense. "Use a condom every time is a really outdated message and it is ineffective. So what we are challenging artists and activists to do

is to speak to what they think needs to be said now."

Such messages may include how gay men communicate with each other, self-esteem issues, or how men have been able to stay negative. The organizers stress that whatever issues people think are relevant for them or for the community they are free to explore.

"The contest is about HIV prevention, it is about safe-sex and it is for the gay and bi community. Everything else is open to people's imagination," said Les Pappas, owner of Better World Advertising, who is donating roughly \$1,500 to print the winning posters.

If the contest is successful, the organizers would like to see it become an annual event. The winning entry will be published in the B.A.R. and displayed at both Magnet and Eros. It could also be turned into an advertising campaign. B.A.R. general manager Michael Yamashita said the paper agreed to help promote the contest because it is community designed and organized.

"We are supportive of the idea to try to keep safe-sex messages out there. It is a chance for us to do our bit," he said.

Entries must be submitted by October 15. Contest results will be announced on December 1, World AIDS Day, and entries will be exhibited at Magnet and Eros. The grand prize winner will be awarded \$500. Other winning entries will receive gift certificates from Castro restaurants, massages at Eros, and other prizes.

For detailed information regarding how and where to submit entries, visit [www.magnetsf.org/contest](http://www.magnetsf.org/contest) or call (415) 581-1612. ▼



# Log Cabin nixes Bush

by Bob Roehr

The national board of directors of Log Cabin Republicans voted 22 to 2 not to endorse the re-election of President Bush at a meeting Tuesday, September 7. The following day, some of the most prominent openly gay Republican elected officials declared their support for Democratic nominee, Senator John Kerry.

"Certain moments in history require that a belief in fairness and equality not be sacrificed in the name of partisan politics; this is one of those moments," Patrick Guerriero, executive director of LCR, said in a Wednesday conference call with reporters. The decision not to endorse "empowers Log Cabin to maintain its integrity while furthering our goal of building a more inclusive Republican Party."

"There is a battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party, and that fight is bigger than one platform, one convention, or even one president," he added. "We have made it clear that we can either be the party of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rudy Giuliani or we can be the party of Alan Keyes and Rick Santorum."

The issue that put LCR over the edge was Bush's support of the Federal Marriage Amendment.

"Some will accuse us of being disloyal," Guerriero said. "However, it was actually the White House who was disloyal to the 1 million gay and lesbian Americans who supported him four years ago." He castigated the president's support of the FMA. "Using gays and lesbians as wedge issues in an election year is unacceptable to Log Cabin."

"It is impossible to overstate the depth of anger and disappointment caused by the president's support for an anti-family constitutional amendment. This amendment would not only ban gay marriage, it would also jeopardize civil unions and domestic partnerships," said LCR political director Chris Barron.

Guerriero also criticized Kerry, who "has repeatedly made clear his opposition to civil marriage equality and has supported discriminatory constitutional amendments in Massachusetts and Missouri."

LCR board chairman William Brownson said the organization will "shift our financial and political resources to defeating the radical right and supporting inclusive Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives." It also plans to open an office in California.

LCR's decision follows an intense six-month process, dating from the president's endorsement of the FMA in February, in which the board evaluated the administration and consulted with its members. "The board made clear that it was not going to make its endorsement decision based just on one issue," Guerriero said.

"It wasn't just the FMA, it wasn't just what the president said in his acceptance speech, and it wasn't just the rejection of the unity plank," he added. "Quite frankly, Karl Rove and company made it very easy because they failed in each of those challenges to send a message that this campaign was going to reach out to all Americans. I don't think it was any one factor, it was the totality of the record."

Guerriero said that while the organization can only support Re-



LCR's Patrick Guerriero

publicans, individual gay Republicans "can state and vote their conscience."

## Some endorse Kerry

David Catania, a city councilman in Washington, D.C., and one of the highest ranking openly gay elected Republicans in the country, was among those endorsing Kerry's presidential bid during a

September 8 conference call arranged by the Democratic National Committee.

Catania was one of the "Austin 12," a group of gay Republicans who met with then-candidate Bush in 2000 and endorsed his election. He raised more than \$75,000 for Bush's re-election earlier in this campaign cycle but broke with the president over the FMA. That cost Catania his slot as a delegate to the convention and a seat on the platform committee.

"George Bush made the promise to be a uniter not a divider but he took the hottest cultural issue in this country and divided the nation right down the middle. He did that for crass political purposes. This is not about partisanship, this is about preserving the Republic," Catania said.

"I've come to believe that the 'big tent' is a big lie, and I've stopped fooling myself about it," Catania said. "There is no place for gays and lesbians within a Republican Party that is adversely dominated by Southern white men." ▼



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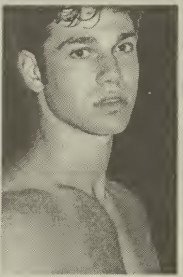
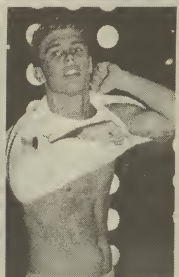
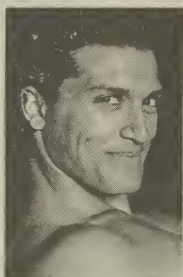
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# New Web site aims to reactivate gay marriage

by Louis Anthes

While the battles rage in American courts and state legislatures over the future of marriage equality, a group of Bay Area activists has recently launched a Web site to foster more direct action, civil disobedience, and internal community dialogue on the issue.

The Web site, *Perfection.net*, which was launched last month, aims to nurture organizers and activists from diverse backgrounds. One of the principals of *Perfection.net*, Eric Rofes, has written a provocative "open letter" presently circulating by e-mail to activists throughout the United States and soon to be posted on the Web site.

Though insisting that *Perfection.net* "is not about me, it's about ideas," Rofes plays an important role in it. Having spent 30 years organizing in Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and many years teaching social movements at Humboldt State University, Rofes has made available on the site a number of articles he has written pertaining to gay marriage activism. Moreover, it was Rofes who authored the open letter summarizing the arguments and reasons that led to the creation of the site.

At a glance, the letter's language seems to affirm the common ground shared by marriage



Davina Kotulski at the February 12 Freedom to Marry rally at City Hall, held just before Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered officials to issue marriage licenses, illustrates the rights with marriage, left, and the rights of domestic partners and civil unions.

equality activists. Yet, Rofes's letter also has a critical tone, urging activists to "be smarter," as he put it to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Specifically, Rofes, who married his partner in San Francisco on February 14, raises a number of concerns about the marriage equality movement's current tactics.

First, the letter calls for a recommitment to balancing the rhetoric of love with the rhetoric of democracy. Practically speaking, Rofes calls upon rally organizers to rotate speakers advancing both themes. But, his point is broader. He worries that "the focus on love, romance, and coupledom may alienate some potential supporters, queer and non-queer, who are single and find the repeated rhetoric and symbolism used by some in the marriage equality movement smarmy, uncritical, and offensive."

It is difficult to evaluate the veracity of Rofes's claims about such rhetoric, since he was unwilling to give the B.A.R. specific examples of groups or individuals talking too much about "love" at public rallies. Nonetheless, marriage equality supporters were willing to reply to his concern as stated.

Molly McKay, associate executive director of Equality California and executive director of Marriage Equality California, said that Rofes had some "good ideas" and that activists were "under way" addressing such concerns.

But Eddie Kaufman, an instructor at San Francisco City College who teaches a course on gay male relationships, said that talking about love works well at rallies because such rhetoric is "concrete," while talk of democracy sounds more "abstract."

Besides the issue of love, Rofes's letter addresses the need to bring gay and straight single people into the marriage equality



Eric Rofes helped start *Perfection.net*.

movement. For some activists, like Davina Kotulski, Ph.D., the author of *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage* (Advocate Books, 2004), single people figure as the beneficiaries of the freedom to marry even if they don't exercise that right.

"If you don't want a marriage," she writes, "don't have one." Similarly, Kaufman believes gay marriage is important for everyone because it's about increasing freedom. "It's about having 31 flavors and then some," he said.

Yet, at the same time, the freedom-to-marry argument can sound like a superficial talking point. Kotulski, who married McKay at City Hall in February, is not indifferent about the comparative value of getting legally married or staying legally single. In fact, her book suggests that marriage is more physically and mentally hygienic than perpetual bachelorhood. "An unpublished study by the San Francisco Department of Health compared two groups of gay men who were in

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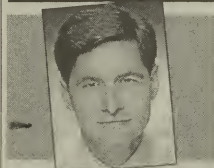


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## Mission Station

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nity.

"Mission Station is unique, more humanistic, with the broadest outlook," said District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty. "I call them closet social workers."

One Castro area resident expressed concerns about crime in the neighborhood.

"I moved to this neighborhood north of Castro Street because it is quiet and filled with flowers and beautifully maintained," said the man, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal.

"But, then I found it's like a veneer over a discreet drug life. I've been stopped many times by homeless young guys looking for money and asking if I have any work and they stress 'any' with emphasis. They're always coming from the direction of Collingwood. They looked like they were tweaking on speed. I'd like to see police not keep a blind eye to the prevalence of drug dealing as well as usage."

Goldberg responded to residents' concerns.

"To the degree that we get information and are able to track people, we will take enforcement action," said Goldberg. "But, again, it depends on the openness

of the community coming forward and identifying people that we can take enforcement against."

## Halloween

Right now, Castro merchants, residents, political leaders, and the police are in the midst of planning for this year's Halloween party. Last year marked the first time the city officially sanctioned the event, which was marred by several violent incidents in 2002.

"Last year was a tremendous success," said Goldberg. "Halloween in the Castro is a huge event and Supervisor Dufty should take tremendous pride in changing that."

Goldberg said the department looks to repeat its success in maintaining safety this year.

"Over time the event became unmanageable with the culmination of seven stabbings the year before last when ambulances couldn't get in to render aid," he explained. "We're looking at replicating last year's success, finding ways to work with event organizers to see if it can be made even better but still maintain it alcohol free and [maintain] lanes for emergency vehicles, should they need to render assistance. Even without alcohol people still fall and hurt themselves. There's still medical issues with heart attacks

in the elderly that might occur."

Beat patrols are one facet of police work that the captain feels passionate about.

"Walking, talking to people, speaking in nonconfrontational situations — that officer gets whispers and told things that perhaps a stranger would not be told," he said, illustrating with a metaphor. "It's like a gardener weeds a garden when the weeds are small. Take care of problems in their infancy with close, hands-on, eyes-on, work. Clearly you're going to tell a friend of yours or somebody you have confidence in that you're not going to tell a stranger. But it's very labor intensive to be effective. We are an emergency service. Our essence is to respond to people in an emergency. Radio cars don't see the weeds until they're bigger. Many times when a radio car responds things have already happened — domestic dispute, driveway tow, by its very nature it has conflict in it."

Clarifying one misconception, Goldberg said that there is no official rotation of beat cops. Rather, at six-month intervals, seniority sign-ups create the potential for movement.

"Some people, because of hours or family needs, people might want to move from a swing watch to a day watch because of commutes," said Goldberg. "If someone's not happy with their beat, we'll find somebody who's a better fit. To the degree possible we want to keep officers in place to connect, develop a rapport with the community."

Goldberg was especially effusive when describing a recent meeting with Castro Street merchants.

"When I parked and got out of the car I was thrilled to death," said Goldberg. "Castro Street was spotless, the streets not gritty, with little trash. Merchants were hosing down the sidewalks. This reflects tremendous pride in the community by business owners, residents, and merchants in the area. So that was exciting. It's a vibrant community, a community with a lot of activities."

Goldberg is quick to praise his predecessor, Corrales, who prior to his Mission Station tenure, accumulated numerous citizen complaints, was the target of several lawsuits alleging abuse (of which the city settled four), and who conducted 1980s Polk Street drug sales sweeps and a 1996 raid on Dennis Peron's Market Street Cannabis Buyer's Club.

"Corrales did a fabulous job," said Goldberg. "He worked tirelessly. There was tremendous support for the work he did."

Corrales is now running for supervisor in District 7 and has been assigned to other duties in the department.

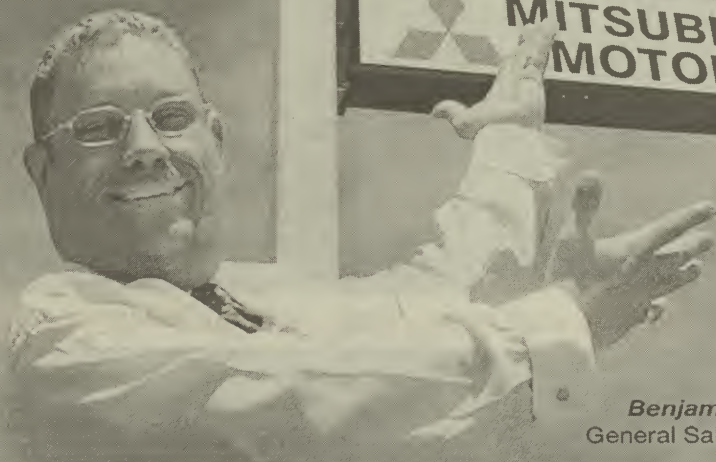
Goldberg said that the U.S. Justice Department's recent \$3 million "Community Oriented Policing" grant to put 50 more officers on the city's payroll should relieve Mission District LGBT community leaders' quality of life concerns.

Goldberg has experience with large outdoor events, having coordinated things such as the Chinese New Year's Parade. One outdoor event under his watch that went awry, but a mistake he learned from, were the New Year's Eve events that had taken place in Union Square. Several such events devolved into celebrants throwing beer bottles.

"Quite frankly it became terrifying," Goldberg said of the parties, which have stopped being held there. "I mean, it was a cloud that hung over my head up until New Year's morning, whatever time it ended. Over time it grew and became unmanageable and became threatening and violent for people involved. There was too much alcohol. Kids were too young." ▼

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# LGBT groups say reggae artist's apology falls flat

by Matthew S. Bajko

Gay rights groups said this week they are not satisfied with an apology issued by a reggae artist they charge is homophobic and is set to perform at a Global Exchange fundraiser in October. The performer, known as Capleton, has called for the killing of queers in his songs and will close out the "Reggae in the Park" concert in Golden Gate Park on October 3, the same Sunday as the Castro Street Fair.

In the past, Capleton, whose full name is Clifton George Bailey III, has defended his songs, saying the lyrics are allegorical. On his hit song "Bun Di Chi Chi" ("Burn the Queer") he claims that burning is merely a metaphor for cleansing and purity. His manager released the following statement from him late Tuesday, August 31, in response to a request by the event's promoter, Michael Levine.

"I do not advocate violence or abuse against anyone, nor do I support prejudice, bigotry or discrimination based upon race, gender or sexual preference. My songs are an expression of my art and

spiritual beliefs, not a call for hatred. My references to 'fire' have always been allegorical and were never meant to be taken literally. It bothers me deeply to hear that some of my past lyrics, which I no longer perform in concert, have been interpreted as offensive to gay and lesbian communities. I offer my apology to all."

Several leaders of gay rights groups, however, including Kirsten Moller, Global Exchange's executive director, call Capleton's apology "hollow" and are increasing pressure on the artist to address his lyrics and homophobia. They point to a May 2004 Amnesty International alert that profiled Capleton for his participation in an antigay concert attended by almost 30,000 people in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica as reason to question his sincerity.

The alert states that, "Throughout the night, Capleton, Sizzla, and others sang almost exclusively about gay men. Using the derogatory terms for gay men - 'chi chi men' or 'batty boys' - they urged the audience to 'kill dem, batty boys haffi dead, gun shots 'pon dem. Who want to see dem dead put up his hand,' ('kill them, gay

men have got to die, gun shots in their head, whoever wants to see them dead, put up your hand')."

"Against a general backdrop of homophobic violence and human rights abuses it's going to take a lot more than a lukewarm one-paragraph apology for Capleton to demonstrate that he has truly changed his tune," said Tina D'Elia, the hate violence survivor program director at Community United Against Violence in San Francisco. "CUAV, along with some of our partner organizations such as the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and Global Exchange, instead argue that Capleton needs to demonstrate accountability with action, not just words."

Joining CUAV and Moller in raising concerns are Clarence Patton with the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects; Julie Dorf of Horizon's Foundation; Chris Daley of the Transgender Law Center; and Peter Tatchell with OutRage! London. The group is calling on Capleton to issue a strong and explicit apology for the homophobia and incitement to commit violence exemplified in his work; a commitment to cease

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## Initiative

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tion, poster, handout, literature, test, survey or Web site to be used. Any school district that failed to abide by those provisions would be fined \$5,000 per pupil for each incident.

Andrade did not return a call seeking comment, but last month he told the *Chico News and Review* his initiative is meant to deter pedophiles from using public schools as an avenue for their "perverted schemes." The paper wrote that Andrade does concede that sex education is a deterrent to teen pregnancy and the acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases, but that he also believes that "the public school system promotes homosexuality in a place where it need not be promoted."

"It is not an attack on homosexuality," Andrade told the paper. Then he asked, "Why do kids in public schools need to know about homosexuality?" The paper said Andrade believes some districts are trying to create a sense of "normalcy" when it comes to homosexuality, rather than leaving the topic up to parents to discuss with their children.

Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors said he believes the initiative is really a clandestine push by the antigay group Campaign for California Families

to create controversy it can then use to raise money. Other ballot measures pushed by the group, such as one to repeal the state's domestic partnership laws, have petered out in recent years and never made it to the ballot.

"For the most part we have seen four or five antigay ballot measures in the last year to year and a half. None of them have gone anywhere," said Kors. "They are going to go for free media to generate a story and use the controversy so they can raise money and make it seem real. Anyone can put an initiative on a piece of paper, submit it, and start collecting signatures."

Andrade would need to collect 373,816 valid signatures by January 3, 2005 for his measure to make it on to the ballot in 2006. While Kors gives little chance to that happening, his organization nonetheless is asking anyone who sees people gathering signatures to call its San Francisco office at (415) 581-0005.

"If it looks like they have a shot to get it on the ballot, we are looking at what the best strategy will be. One is a do not sign campaign to ask people not to sign it," said Kors, who has been in touch with other gay groups about the issue. "We are sort of watching it cautiously. It is so offensive and out of step with most Californians that it seems unlikely to everyone we

have spoken to that it will qualify. But everyone thought the recall was unlikely, so we have to watch these things."

Kors said he was mailing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger a letter today (Thursday, September 9) asking him to denounce the initiative and ask people not to sign it. The initiative would be before voters the same time he is up for re-election.

"Here is something he can truly take a strong leadership position on. His statement that he thinks it is outrageous and isn't for it has the potential for the money to dry up. We know he doesn't want to see this on the ballot when he is running."

Yet the governor just signed into law another parent notification bill on August 27. Called "Parental Notification of Sex Education Speakers," and pushed by Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Riverside), the bill requires schools to give parents 14 days advance notice before outside consultants can come on campus to present, teach, show films, or otherwise speak to their children regarding sexual issues or activities. Parents can choose to then "opt-out" their children from the class. Equality California opposed the bill, saying it singles out topics such as HIV and AIDS and not other sexually transmitted diseases. ▼

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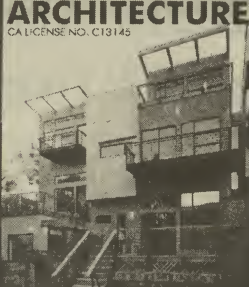
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## Derek Silva

◀ page 1

were supposed to have their rent paid by Mercy, and instead ended up getting served with three-day notices on several occasions. Navarro stressed that all the rents had been paid. She also attributed the snafu to the fact that some apartment complexes where tenants were housed "were not set up for pre-paid leases."

Carmen Herrera, with the HRC's housing unit, did not return calls from the B.A.R. regarding the status of the complaints against Mercy.

Navarro said that Mercy staff would abide by the HRC's decision and take part in the training.

Two weeks ago, the B.A.R. wrote an article about the renovation at the Derek Silva complex. Hardly had the paper hit the stands when calls came in from several of the tenants who were sharply critical of Mercy Housing and its role in the construction project. Last week, the B.A.R. sat down with about 12 of the tenants, several of whom told stories of receiving eviction notices while at their temporary apartments elsewhere in the Bay Area and other problems associated with the months-long rehab work done on the building.

Several tenants complained of receiving harassing phone calls from their landlords when the rent failed to arrive on time from Mercy.

"For someone with AIDS to be receiving harassing calls and they [Mercy] lie – I think she lied to me to make me feel calmer. It was very upsetting," said tenant Julio Moreno, referring to Navarro.



Mercy Housing's Rosalba Navarro

Navarro said this week that Mercy treated everyone "with the utmost respect."

Mercy Housing bought the building in December 2001 after paying \$7 million. After Mercy obtained an additional \$9 million for renovation and tenant relocation costs, work began in March 2003 and ended last month. Twenty-three tenants were relocated to other apartments in December 2002; another 25 residents were relocated off-site in September 2003, according to a Mercy timeline. Some of the tenants chose to stay in their apartments during the construction, but at some point had to relocate to another unit in the building. The complex provides 73 adults with housing and program services provided by Catholic Charities CYO.

Glenn Motola, Psy.D., director of HIV services for Catholic Charities, said in an e-mail that "It was very difficult to live at Derek Silva during the construction. We totally empathize with the residents who endured those challenges and I'm glad the transition is behind us all. We are also grateful to Mercy Housing who invested in this building and preserved it for the long-term housing of people living with disabilities."

Several of the tenants who spoke with the B.A.R. last Thursday, September 2 had similar stories and most were upset with the way they were treated. In fact, Navarro showed up unannounced at last week's meeting, causing some tenants to angrily insist she leave the room. One tenant, however, asked Navarro to stay while she spoke about her experiences with Mercy Housing, so Navarro remained at the meeting during that conversation and then left. Some tenants questioned whether the B.A.R. had anything to do with Navarro's sudden appearance at the meeting, but she acknowledged "the reporter" had not told her of the session. On Tuesday, Navarro declined to say how she found out about the meeting.

### Lots of late notices

Moreno, who recently graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, said he had a "major problem" with Mercy Housing. He relocated to an apartment in Berkeley during the construction work so that he could be closer to school, but said it was a stressful time because Mercy did not come through with the rent for the Berkeley apartment.

"I got a notice on March 4, 2003 that I needed to pay another \$600," Moreno said. Then, he got a three-day notice to pay or vacate the premises. Mercy Housing was supposed to pay the rent on the Berkeley apartment.

"My landlady in Berkeley was screaming," Moreno said. "I was going through midterms. I had to stop going to school to come to San Francisco to deal with it."

Navarro said she doesn't re-

member the late notices. Told that a reporter had seen the late notices, Navarro acknowledged late notices were received.

"This was a very, very difficult rehab," she said. "So many things were wrong with the building and we all tried to make the best of it."

While Moreno said he is "not blind to the fact that improvements have been made" at Derek Silva, he found the treatment he received from Mercy officials "de-meaning."

Tenant Jay Davis also had problems with receiving three-day notices while at the Fillmore Center, one of the places to which Derek Silva residents were relocated. He said Navarro's attitude was "dismissive" of tenants' concerns and ultimately said there was a lack of communication between Mercy staff and the residents.

While at the meeting, Navarro briefly explained the process by which checks are cut to vendors – in this case the landlords of apartments where the tenants were relocated.

"Everybody has to approve check requests," she said, outlining a complicated process by which check requests are sent to Los Angeles, then San Francisco, then Denver.

Referring to complaints filed with HRC, Navarro told the group that Mercy had "proven" to HRC investigators that rent for tenants living at the Fillmore Center "was paid on time." Tenants who were relocated to Fox Plaza, Navarro said, did not experience the late notice problem.

"Some did get three-day notices, but I immediately dealt with it," Navarro said. "I'd tell [the landlords] that the lease was not with the residents and they need to deal with me."

### Lost original apartment

Roxanne Lewis, another Derek Silva tenant, was the one who requested Navarro stay to hear her comments. A transsexual, Lewis has lived in the complex since 1993 and was good friends with the late Tony Leone, a longtime AIDS advocate and Derek Silva resident who had once served on the HIV Health Services Planning Council. Lewis, who was once president of the tenants' association, also served as the building's activities coordinator.

"One-half of this building died every year," Lewis said, referring to previous years. She noted that the building – which is designated a landmark – had many problems and that under the previous owner, there were no funds to complete minor repairs or to re-carpet or paint the units once they became vacant.

"If it had not been for Mercy buying this building we wouldn't be on the streets but we could have ended up in whatever they could afford – hotel space – while waiting for Section 8," Lewis said.

Lewis, who moved to the Fillmore Center during the rehab project at Derek Silva, said that while she did not receive eviction notices, she did receive a back rent notice that \$9,000 was due. She called Navarro.

"She did call back," Lewis said, "and explained that funds are [released] in blocks."

Navarro said Tuesday that the \$9,000 figure represented the amount of rental funds remaining in the account – not an amount due.

For Lewis, however, the problems began when she returned to Derek Silva and discovered that she could not move back into her old unit because the person Mercy had moved in there (Mercy shuffled tenants who stayed in various

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## OBITUARIES

# Former Empress Pat Montclair dies at 63



Pat Montclair

by Cynthia Laird

**P**at Montclair, one of San Francisco's premier Empresses and a nationally known female impersonator, died Tuesday, August 31 at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center after a long illness. He was 63.

Pat was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on May 23, 1941 and is survived by his partner of 20 years, David Carney; his sisters Helen, Marie, and Debbie; his brother John; his Emperor Jerry Coletti (Emperor XVII A.N.); and many longtime friends and associates from across the nation.

Pat was a well-respected and renowned female impersonator

who entertained at some of San Francisco's famous "drag show" nightclubs such as Club 181 on Eddy Street, The Frolic Room on Mason Street, and Finnochio's on Broadway. His lavish costumes and unique show production numbers mesmerized audiences and created a following wherever he would entertain. His reputation as an exceptional costumer, makeup artist, and hair stylist, with his intricate beading of dresses, elaborate male costumes, and unique headdresses are masterpieces that set him apart, and he was always in demand, friends said. When not entertaining or sewing he would hold court as a bartender, most recently at Marlena's and at some former bars

such as The Hideaway (Church Street Station) and the Galleon.

Pat was elected the fourth Empress of CGNIE (Imperial Court of Sacramento) and the Absolute XXIV Empress of San Francisco in 1989. He and his Emperor had just celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as elected monarchs of San Francisco in February. During Pat and Coletti's reign, their court raised

\$150,000 for various charities and had one of the most elaborate coronation balls that the city had seen.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 2 at 1 p.m. at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 100 Diamond Street, in San Francisco. A celebration of life and reception will immediately follow at Marlena's, 488 Hayes Street. ▼

## Chris (Jesse) Jesberger

Dec. 25, 1952-Aug. 14, 2004



Chris (Jesse) Jesberger passed away peacefully at CPMC, San Francisco, on August 14, 2004, after suffering a massive heart attack at his home on August 12.

Jesse was born in New York, and after serving in the US Navy, he was employed by Pitney Bowes, and also held a variety of positions in the bar and restaurant industry. During the past two years, he was employed by In Home Supportive Services.

Some of Jesse's hobbies were playing pool, whitewater rafting, and beer festivals, along with travels to Montana, Colorado and New Mexico with his partner. Jesse was introduced to his latest hobby, hot-air ballooning, after ascending over Albuquerque in October 2000.

Jesse leaves to mourn, his partner of 12 years, Clark Feller; his care recipient, Paul J. Clattenburg; and a host of friends.

A memorial service will be held at Metropolitan Community Church of

San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 12.

"Farewell, my friend, I will never forget you. It has been a wonderful 12 years. When it is my turn to cross over, I hope you will greet me with a hug and a cold beer. Love always, Clark."

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, inside the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## School board

◀ page 2

tions are outside the realm of official political parties, Sanchez is proudly a Green Party candidate. He is a co-founder of Teachers 4 Change, a group formed to fight stagnating teacher salaries in the face of rising housing costs. He has served on the school board for four years, and has authored measures such as Proposition H, to increase funding for the school district.

Sanchez is an eighth grade science teacher in Redwood City and is currently the only active teacher on San Francisco's school board. "It's important to have [a teacher's] perspective on the board," said Sanchez. "All too often school boards have an unsatisfactory impact on teacher and student life."

Sanchez has lived in the Mission District for 13 years, and as a gay man of color, feels that LGBT issues are highly relevant to city schools. "On one hand, we are working hard to foster respect [for LGBT] issues. Most middle schools have safe havens, most high schools have GSAs [gay-straight alliances], and most teachers will not tolerate overt homophobic activity. On the other hand, we have groups like the JROTC [Junior Reserve Officer's

Training Corps, a project of the United States Military] actively recruiting on school grounds. Given the military's policy of discrimination, [the JROTC] should have no place in our public schools," said Sanchez.

In addition to Ammiano, Sanchez's supporters include the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi, and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez.

## Renewed resolve

The struggles of serving on the school board since January have made Hiles's "resolve to continue serving even stronger." A resident of Bernal Heights, Hiles admits she is a product of a "quality public education system, and [is striving] to give everyone access." Since taking office, Hiles has been a strong supporter of SFUSD Superintendent Arlene Ackerman, including efforts to fix an inherited financial quagmire, and projects like the recently opened "Dream Schools" that provide underserved communities with top-notch facilities and stringent academic standards.

Hiles said she has been "an out, proud lesbian since 18," and is "grateful to have benefited from the work of Tom [Ammiano], Theresa [Sparks], and Roberta

[Achtenberg], who have done so much for our ability to serve the city." Concerns about San Francisco's large percentage of children in private schools and "families defecting to other communities with better schools" should interest all members of the LGBT community, whether or not they have children. "It's a whole community quality of life issue," said Hiles. "UCSF gets the best medical residents in the country, who then leave to raise their kids elsewhere."

She also points to quality of life reflected in a community's educational standards. "It's no coincidence we have record shootings, with record disenfranchisement. Thirty percent of African American Bayview-Hunters Point high school seniors drop out and have an average GPA of 1.8."

## The LGBT vote

These candidates for school board are hoping that the LGBT community will get active, get informed, and get out and vote.

According to Springer, the school board election is "a chance for each of us to take an active role in raising our children." For Hiles, this may not mean her sons will be moving back to San Francisco any time soon, but it is "one step toward providing every child in the SFUSD a quality education, and a future filled with opportunity." ▼

## Derek Silva

◀ previous page

apartments while the construction was going on) refused to leave.

Mercy officials told her that they were "having a hard time getting the tenant out of my apartment of 11 years," Lewis recounted. "I asked why. They attributed it to 'problems.'"

"We have housing until the day we die, but I lost my apartment because they moved a smoker into the apartment," said Lewis, who explained she cannot tolerate cigarette smoke due to health reasons.

Navarro said Tuesday that Lewis's depiction of her apartment situation was accurate – Lewis did have to move into another unit at Derek Silva. Because the unit was on an upper floor where little structural work was done, the unit does not have new cabinets that her original unit had installed during the renovation.

## Reimbursements late

Dan Lutsky decided to stay at Derek Silva during the reconstruction project, but had to move to another unit in the building. He was upset that window treatments apparently didn't arrive on time,

prompting Mercy to cover his windows in "black burlap" that "made it feel like a prison."

He also insisted that there were two phone jacks in his apartment when he left it, and only one when he returned. He contacted Mercy to inquire about getting reimbursed for a second jack and was told to submit an invoice.

Lutsky provided the B.A.R. with copies of his correspondence with Mercy, and some of the language was quite blunt. In July he demanded reimbursement, saying he had submitted the invoice.

"Once again you opened your mouth, and out came another lie," he began in a July e-mail. "You said I would have my \$188 by the end of last week, but that didn't happen."

Mercy staff wrote back that the e-mail constituted harassment and accused him of being in violation of his lease agreement.

Lutsky did get his reimbursement, 65 days later, he said.

He was also critical of the fact that Mercy changed the building's entrance, thereby disrupting mail service because the change happened in a day, catching residents off guard.

## Changed mind

Tenant Bill Cozby attended last

week's meeting and said he initially remained at Derek Silva, but then his health began to deteriorate. He requested to move off site, but charged that Navarro ignored his calls.

"We were told there would be no construction above the third floor. They lied about so many things," Cozby said.

Navarro adamantly denied any tenant was told there would be no work done on certain floors.

"There was construction from top to bottom," Navarro said. Most structural work was done in the basement and on the first two floors, but work was done on every floor, she said.

"Everybody was told they'd have to move at least once – off site or to another unit in the building," she said.

Navarro said that when she received Cozby's letter from his doctor stating that a move was necessary, it was at a point when Mercy's relocation fund was over budget, but that she did find additional funds and Cozby was moved to the Fillmore Center.

"We took care of him as soon as possible," Navarro said.

Cozby disputes that characterization.

"It took four and a half months," he said. ▼

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# Bounce

by Jim Provenzano

Some weeks, there are just too many events and sports groups gathering and holding events. You have so many to choose from! There's no excuse not to get sweaty with some new and old LGBT friends. Here are some events taking place this weekend, and over the next few weeks.

## SF Fog rugby clinic

The San Francisco Fog Rugby

team will hold a beginner's clinic Saturday, September 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Presidio Park, at 15th Avenue and Lake Street. Meet the fellows who recently won the annual Bingham Cup in merry olde London, defeating teams with alluring names like the Sydney Convicts and the Manchester Spartans. Don't be daunted by all this testosterone. They're very nice to rookies. There's no fee, but you have to register before September 10. For more info, e-mail info@sffog.org, or visit their Web



The scrum of us: Rugby players on the field.



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site, [www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org) for a map, directions, and a sign-up form.

## Angel Island Sports Day

Sunday, September 12 is the 23rd annual LGBT Angel Island Sports Day, which starts at 9:45 a.m. Join Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners for their annual celebration of LGBT sports on Angel Island, the state park in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, etc. Prefer a non-competitive sport?

Play some new games (kind of like summer camp, without the mosquitoes). Bicycles are recommended to get to the picnic site at East Garrison. Walk or pedal clockwise on the main perimeter road for 1.8 miles.

All this play burns calories, so bring potluck dishes according to your last name: A-E: beverage; F-K: dessert; L-R: main course; S-Z: salad. For ferry info and more: contact Naphthali Offen at [lamda523@aol.com](mailto:lamda523@aol.com), or visit [www.sffrontrunners.org](http://www.sffrontrunners.org).

## Flag football

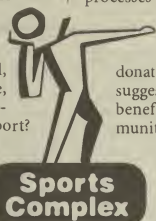
The stalwart dudes with the San Francisco Shockwaves flag football team usually gather each weekend at Dolores Park on Saturdays at 11 a.m., and sometimes on Sundays. E-mail: [info@sfs-shockwaves.org](mailto:info@sfs-shockwaves.org), or visit <http://www.sfs-shockwaves.org>.

## Self-defense class

The LGBT Community Center of San Francisco, in association with Triangle Martial Arts Association of San Francisco, will host a joint fundraising beginner's self-

defense seminar at the center, 1800 Market Street.

The introductory self-defense class #1, September 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. is designed for complete novices of all ages, experience levels, and ability. The class is very low impact, low stress, and fun-oriented, while teaching you some valuable concepts and thought processes as well as valid techniques in how to defend yourself.



Sports Complex

A sliding scale donation of \$20 per person is suggested, with all proceeds benefiting the LGBT Community Center and Triangle Martial Arts Association. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay. Space is limited.

Triangle Martial Arts Association will offer two door prizes for participants in this seminar: six months of training with Triangle Taekwon Do Castro Club of San Francisco (a \$240 value), and two months of training (an \$80 value).

Admission will be on a first-come, first-served basis, however, you may reserve a spot by calling (415) 495-1888 and leaving your name and telephone number. All reserved spots must be redeemed by 6:50 p.m. or they will be released to members of the general public. Find out more about both organizations at [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org) and [www.triangletkd.org](http://www.triangletkd.org).

## Team SF meeting

Want to get the scoop on Bay Area sports planning? Team San Francisco is a start. Last week's meeting was bumped to this weekend. Attend the Team San Francisco general membership meeting Saturday, September 11, at 1 p.m., in the Community

Meeting Room (upstairs) above Bank of America at 18th and Castro. Visit [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org) for info, and for links and contact numbers for Bay Area sports groups.

## Gay Games VII bowling league

The fall season of the Gay Games VII bowling league starts soon. This league, which has been around in various forms for over 10 years, is looking for new members. This is a handicap league that bowls on Monday nights in Pacifica, starting September 20. Even if you're not planning to go to the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, you can still be in the league and have a great time. The cost is the same whether you're going to Gay Games VII or not.

Each Monday night for 30 weeks beginning September 20, bowling will commence at around 8 p.m. This will either be a doubles or trios league (to be decided at the organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on the first night). Either way, you can count on being finished bowling by around 10 p.m., earlier than other leagues that have four or five bowlers per team.

Single bowlers: If you don't have any teammates, don't let that stop you. Organizers can easily place anyone on a team with other bowlers. The league is open to any adult, whether male or female, young adult or old, gay or non-gay, experienced or a bowling virgin. Because this is a handicap league, the league can easily accommodate all skill levels.

Cost: Most likely \$14 per week, at Sea Bowl, 4625 Coast Highway in Pacifica. The phone number is (650) 738-8190. This is just 13 miles and 20 minutes from 18th and Castro streets. Check out [www.seabowl.com](http://www.seabowl.com) for more details about the bowling center and its many amenities.

Call Cathy at (650) 589-3253 or send an e-mail to [dlitwins@yahoo.com](mailto:dlitwins@yahoo.com).

Check out more local, regional, and global sports info at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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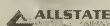
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## Reggae artist

◀ page 15

selling, performing, and promoting the problematic songs and albums; and a commitment to performing some public educational work that addresses issues of homophobia, transphobia, violence, and oppression with his core audience. They have suggested he do

a public service announcement or participate in community forums in Jamaica and elsewhere.

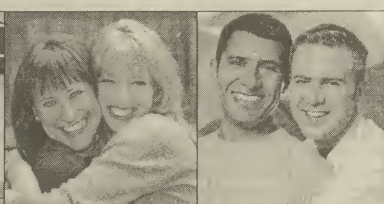
They also are asking him to donate proceeds from his earnings to LGBT communities and organizations and lend his support to efforts to repeal homophobic laws, such as sodomy and anti-buggering laws in Jamaica.

Levine has said he sees no reason to disinvite Capleton from per-

forming. He has offered CUAV a free booth at the event and has argued that there have been no hate crimes resulting from Capleton's concerts in Europe or the U.S.

At this point, D'Elia said the coalition of organizations is waiting to see what Capleton's response will be before deciding on further action. She said CUAV is also weighing whether to accept Levine's invite to be at the event. ▼

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# Gay marriage

◀ page 12

non-monogamous long-term relationships," she writes. "The first group consisted of men in registered domestic partnerships, those in the second were not. The study found that men in domestic partnerships were more likely to have safe sex and thus had a reduced risk of getting or giving sexually transmitted diseases than those who had not taken this legal step. If these findings bear out in more extensive studies (and I believe they will), this is a big deal. When gay men's relationships are respected by legal status, they are more likely to respect themselves, their domestic partners, and their other sexual partners."

Kotulski also complains that gay dating is like "playing a game of Ms. Pac-Man," because individuals must perpetually date each other, like teenagers. *Why You Should Give a Damn* thus implies that marriage, open or not, happens to be the healthier and more mature choice for adult men and women.

Concerned about alienating potential allies, Perfectunion.net explicitly recognizes the perspective of happy, healthy singles. One of its links is [www.unmarried.org](http://www.unmarried.org), which is the Web site for the Alternatives to Marriage Project, a nonprofit organization advocating equality and fairness for people who choose not to marry, who cannot marry, or who live together outside of marriage.

Complicating the picture even more are polygamous relationships, like the one Kaufman has chosen to be in with two partners during the last five years. He feels that his family, which he would love to legally formalize, is "common in the bisexual and leather communities, where you get two daddies and a boy or two slaves and a master (or mistress)," Kaufman, who attended City Hall's February marriages in joyful tears, is also saddened that, for strategic reasons, he has had to remain passive about advocating his own family's rights. He admits his story could be used to link marriage equality to the specter of polygamy, which some on the right have argued would naturally and inevitably lead to legalizing incest, bestiality, human sacrifice, and universal health care.

Jesting aside, Kaufman's story makes one wonder: do activists need to balance talk of love and democracy, or rather, do activists need to define democracy in terms of a plurality of adult, human loves, including coupling, polygamy, and even self-love?

## White weddings?

Rofes's open letter also brings to the surface the question of whether the marriage equality movement mainly shows a white face. Again, McKay believes this concern is legitimate but is being addressed.

She points to the case of Stuart Gaffney, who with his partner, John Lewis, are two plaintiffs in a lawsuit being brought by City Attorney Dennis Herrera's office against the state of California and its ban on same-sex marriage. Gaffney's story, as was reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, revolves around how he was re-fighting the marriage equality battle waged by his Chinese American mother, who was forbidden to marry his white father until the California Supreme Court struck down racial restrictions on marriage in 1948.

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance last month was the lead sponsor of the "Summer of Love 2004" rally that featured many Asian organi-

zations, couples, and activists.

Rofes calls for not just one multiracial campaign in the mainstream media but many different campaigns organized by and for communities of color throughout the country. He insists that increased visibility of people of color must occur during crucial voter drives that will take place across the country soon.

## 'We all deserve...'

Finally, Rofes's letter addresses the activists' often-heard refrain, "We all deserve the freedom to marry." Rofes fears this rhetoric may play into the reactionary political strategy of basing entitlements upon whether someone "deserves" them through hard work, higher education, or moral character.

Of course, the relationships between marriage and social hierarchies can be asked at a deeper level: Does the rhetoric of the "deserving" reflect activists' assumption that marriage equality is of interest mainly to middle-class people? McKay said "No." She believes that the slogan is intended to advance universal rights. After all, its first word is "we."

Rofes, however, is more open to addressing the class implications of the marriage equality movement. "Privileging the married couple is antithetical to the big tent queer community," he told the *B.A.R.* He hopes that, in the future, rather than domesticate queer identities around the tax code, social benefits rights, home ownership, and trusts and wills, the marriage equality movement will queer the institution of marriage, though he was not able to elucidate how that might occur.

## The post-marriage future

It may seem a little premature to discuss queer rights in a post-marriage era, but Kaufman believes he can see what the politics of love may look like after marriage equality is achieved.

"Once people learn the implications and limitations and responsibilities of the legal benefits of marriage, they may be talking more about gay divorce," he half-joked. While marriage grants legal rights to couples, so does divorce, particularly regarding community property and debt, custody of children, and alimony and child support.

Indeed, individual rights remain of vital interest to people exiting straight marriages, particularly women. As the Alternatives to Marriage Project Web site points out, there are powerful conservative groups out there, such as the National Marriage Project ([www.marriage.rutgers.edu](http://www.marriage.rutgers.edu)). Its directors, David Popenoe, Ph.D. and Barbara Defoe Whitehead, Ph.D. advocate a pro-fatherhood, pro-nuclear family, anti-divorce political agenda and publish books such as *Life Without Father*, *Disturbing the Nest* (Harvard University Press, 1999), *Why There Are No Good Men Left: The Romantic Plight of the New Single Woman* (Broadway Books, 2000), and *The Divorce Culture* (Knopf, 1996). Perhaps strategizing about gay divorce now is urgent, not silly.

Whatever the future holds for the marriage equality movement, Rofes feels strongly that legal, legislative, and media "strategies will not achieve their goals without reinvigorating grassroots activism" through increased dialogue, open-mindedness, and debate. Perfectunion.net is one of the most recent attempts to mobilize potential allies, to overcome political apathy by inviting voices from the margins, and to rally all people, whomever and however they love, to join the ongoing social democracy movement. ▼

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

#### VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: [www.sfgov.org/bdsuprv](http://www.sfgov.org/bdsuprv)

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

#### TREASURE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Board is comprised of 25 persons. 11 of whom shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and 14 of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor.

The purpose of the Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Board is to gather public input and opinion from diverse communities in San Francisco and to provide additional expertise to the Treasure Island Development Authority. Specifically, the CAB will provide recommendations to the Authority concerning the final reviews and implementation of the draft reuse plan, dated July 1996, policies and procedures for interim reuses, and other matters of importance to the future of Treasure Island and all citizens of San Francisco as the Board of Directors of the Authority may refer to the CAB from time to time. In providing advice and recommendations, the CAB shall strive to reflect the values and interests of the various communities in the City. Sunset Date: None referenced. Compensation: None referenced.

Vacant seat, succeeding Manuel Jimenez, resigned, seat 6, must possess any of the following qualifications: land use and urban planning and architecture; transportation planning and alternative and mass transit; historic conservation and preservation; engineering and construction; real estate development and financing; economic development and job generation and organized labor; first-source hiring, welfare-to-work and other job broker programs; affordable and low-income housing; marine related activities; natural resource preservation and conservation; environmental and toxic remediation and control; tideland trust and public access; open meeting laws; recreational and athletic opportunities and programs; representative of public safety officers on Treasure Island, representative of THDI; representative of Job Corps; Representative of Treasure Island Elementary School; representative of film production industry; and representative of residential tenants on Treasure Island, for the unexpired portion of a four-year term ending January 1, 2005.

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### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541518

In the matter of the application of Diane Gong for change of name. The application of Diane Gong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Gong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Olive Gong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day, 2004 of October at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278627-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rubio Chocolates, 740-B Shrader St., San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Salina M. Rubio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-19-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278540-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Meakim & Stern Spinal Care, 505 Beach St., Ste. #110 San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jamie K. Stern & Christina Meakim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-17-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0278402-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: 818 Hard Wood Floor, 755 Prague St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Quoc Vi Phung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-11-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-11-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278581-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: BWSM, 892 A 42nd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Boris Sheykhetov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-18-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278564-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco School of Sambo, 4118 21st Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sidney Teixeira. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-10-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-18-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278667-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Luxurious Nail Salon, 564 Market St., Ste. 500 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tran Dung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-23-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278655-00  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gerwhit Enterprises/Gerridew's Gifts, 146 McAllister St. #406 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gerald D. White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-20-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-20-04.  
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278724-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Innovative Process Technology Group, 738 Clipper St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ralf Oelschlaeger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-24-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08-24-04.  
SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278761-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suro Information Technology, 1515 Willard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Glen Gertelman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-25-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-25-04.  
SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Contract Interiors, 1755 Filbert St. #20 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Patricia Ditzel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-01-79. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.  
SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Landmark Construction & Development, Inc., 71 Britton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134-2732. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed May M. Poon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.  
SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278804-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Subway Sandwich, 30 Second St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Ruben Kazarian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.  
SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Gurjal Ashok Kumar. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 53 West Portal Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94127. Type of License applied for:  
41 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE EATING PLACE  
SEPTEMBER 9, 16, 23 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ginger Barn, 584 Castro St. #884 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-2594. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael S. Davison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.  
SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0278832-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sea Bee San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gina Ma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-27-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.  
SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004





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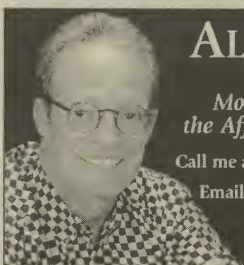
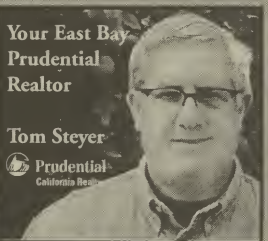
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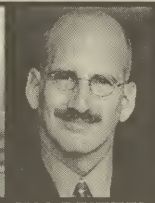
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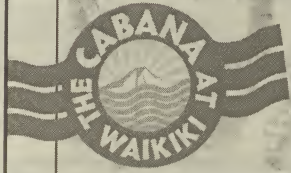
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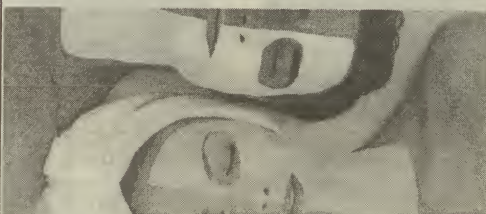
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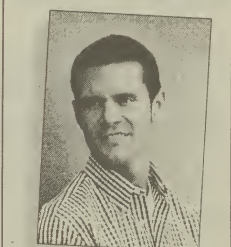
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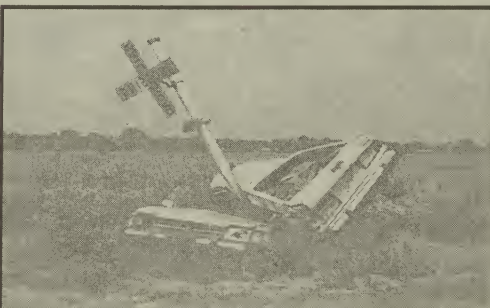
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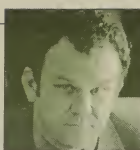


**'The Leopard' spotted in the Castro**  
Gay Italian director Luchino Visconti's *'Il Gattopardo'* plays the Castro Theatre.

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**'Criminal' world**  
Actors John C. Reilly and Diego Luna in caper film.

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**Immigrant boyfriend**  
'Bulgarian Lovers' in a new gay film from Spain.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 37 • 9 September 2004

## Queer and quite quotable

Understanding gay art couple Gilbert & George

by Glen Helfand

*Gilbert & George: Intimate Conversations* with François Jonquet; Phaidon, \$49.95  
*Introducing Gilbert & George* by Robert Rosenblum; Thames & Hudson, \$24.95

The appeal of art couples is in the blurry boundaries between creative acts and the juicy real-life relationship stuff. There are precious few queer artists whose connections are admittedly both creative and carnal. Consider the constant contention around Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns and their once-close relationship. The artists don't take kindly to the assertions, made by certain art historians, about their past. Pierre et Gilles, the glam French pair, are more open about how they collaborate on their glittering images, and rumors abound about their relationships with their comely models.

There's loads more intrigue and mystification surrounding Gilbert & George, the two-man British art couple who, after meeting in art school decades ago, clicked into a complete partnership that essentially turned their life into a singular art object. Since declaring themselves sculptures in the late 1960s, they've never hid the fact that they've been completely intertwined. They've been tabloid staples in England since that time —

indeed, their artistic antics are designed to push boundaries of taste and conceptualism. In their grandly scaled photographic works, the pair often pose nude amidst attractive young men of all stripes and towering images of feces. Yet for most modern art aficionados, the pair is a curiosity composed of effete, enigmatic gestures.

But perseverance can generate respectability. As Gilbert & George enter their 60s, they're the subject of two recent, lavishly illustrated volumes that have the function of almost humanizing this queer and highly quotable team. Curator and art historian Robert Rosenblum's compact volume is even titled *Introducing Gilbert & George*, a wry idea considering they've been at it for decades.

The almost pocket-sized format of this book invites a comparison to something like *Gilbert & George for Dummies* — as if their humor-tinged, seemingly snobbish activities might be mistaken for anything slightly low-brow. The mini coffee-table book, with brief erudite commentary by Rosenblum, copious color reproductions, and pithy, large-print quotes by Gilbert & George, functions as a

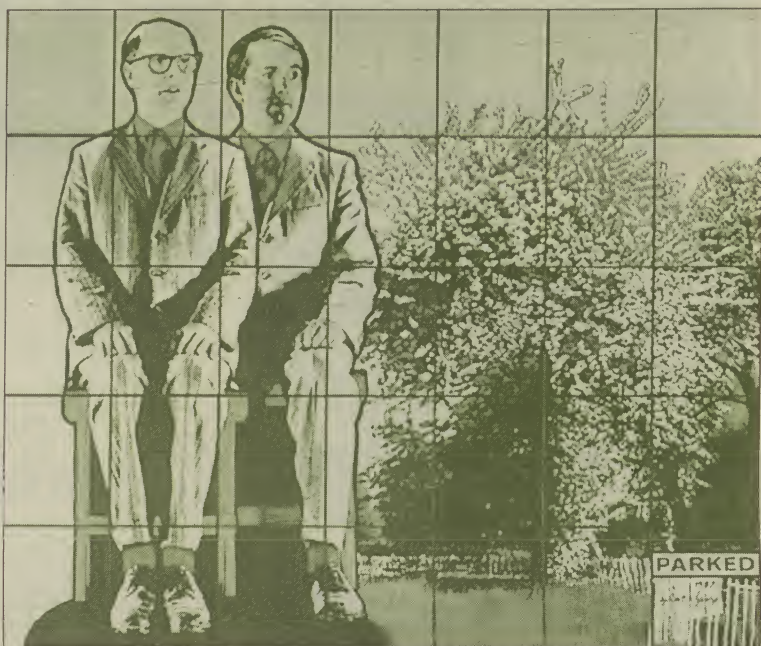
quick dunk into the pair's inimitable world. "If you are submerged in normal life, then your view will be normal," reads a 1985 statement attributed to the singular entity Gilbert & George. "So we have to keep separate from normal life in order to be able to say something that's not known. People come to art for something that they don't understand, that's not in their life already." In other words, they do it for us.

### Brand names

Gilbert & George's approach and identity — part conceptualism, part schtick — is the apotheosis of art faggotry. Together they address religion, stiff drinks, dicks, shit, race

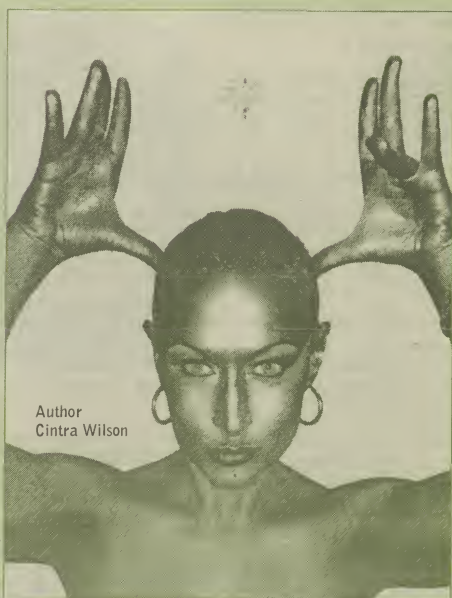
and class — not to mention a branding of their joint identity, an idea that clearly has held sway on subsequent artists like Jeff Koons. Gilbert & George are personas, an idea forged when they painted themselves gold and stood still on a tabletop, not unlike those novelty performers in the park. Gilbert & George's super-colorful, large-scale collaged photography, with evocative texts, frequently feature the artists themselves inhabiting an all-male universe accented with body fluids, rent-boy adverts, and sometimes something as unabashedly beautiful as a blossoming flower. Their sometimes cartoony primary-color schemes, not to men-

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*Parked (1987)*, by Gilbert & George, is a double self-portrait in the Detroit Institute of the Arts collection.

Photo courtesy of Detroit Institute of the Arts



Author  
Cintra Wilson

## Fame or bust!

by Robert Julian

*Colors Insulting to Nature* by Cintra Wilson; Fourth Estate, \$24.95

Employing a narrative style that is a cross between Hunter Thompson and Patrick Dennis, Cintra Wilson hits the ground running with her first novel, *Colors Insulting to Nature*. It is a slam-bam, no thank you, ma'am romp that slices and dices every pretension of modern society, with particular emphasis on America's culture of celebrity as illustrated by one little girl's personal quest for fame.

Liza Normal, the novel's protagonist, has more than a few literary predecessors. Perhaps more than anyone else, she is the 21st-century counterpart to Patrick Dennis' Belle Poitrine from *Little Me*. But where the drunken Belle fell up the social ladder by means of her own willful sense of denial, an equally drunken, drug-addicted Liza continually reaches beyond her grasp, only to be beaten down into the trenches time and again.

The only daughter of a dentist and a buxom

wannabe showgirl, Liza (and her dorky brother Ned) are quickly abandoned by their father and left to the alcoholic devices of their mother, Peppy Normal, who moves the family to Marin County. Peppy's theatrical aspirations morph into an attempt to start a dinner theater in an abandoned fire station in Fairfax. The teenage Liza begins her climb to the top via a supporting role in her mother's disastrous production of *The Sound of Music*, and it's pretty much downhill from there. As Liza snorts and swallows her way to adulthood, she is trashed at every turn, from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and finally to Las Vegas, where fame catches up with her in the most unexpected way.

Cintra Wilson's brand of gonzo journalism involves a series of over-the-top situations, illuminated by exaggerated prose phrasing and an abundance of loony metaphors and similes. Consider, for instance: "Depression festered in Liza's stomach, bound in tight twine like a rotting ham," or, "Liza struggled to retain her great epiphany as the acid wore off, trying to capture the last straggling sparks of enlightenment before they flew up her mental chimney, or chilled

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# The everlasting secret family

Gay movies, gay trysting, and gay GOP-baiting!

by Roberto Friedman

We crib our column's headline this week from the cult gay Australian film based on the pulpy Frank Moor-

house novel, coming to home entertainment soon from Ariztital Entertainment. The 1988 movie makes all of gaydom seem like one big secret society, but that sounds about right, donchathink? Homosexuals are one big club.

After all, we have our own club rituals, our own clubhouses, our secret handshakes. We even share a certain aesthetic, radical an idea as that is for some.

For instance, who among us will not love *The Queer Movie Poster Book* by Jenni Olson, a sumptuous new Chronicle book with a foreword by funny-man Bruce Vilanch? Posters from some classic gay films are represented, such as *The Killing of Sister George* ("the story of three consenting adults in the privacy of their own home"), *The Boys in the Band* ("is not a musical"), and *Fortune and Men's Eyes* ("What goes on in prison is a crime.") Olson provides amusing glosses on films and film poster art, takes her survey into the '90s and beyond, and ends with a chapter of posters featuring the ever-popular "guys with their shirts off."

Mining a similar pop-culture vein is *Childish Things* (Santa Monica Press), in which photographic team Davis & Davis pose dolls, action figures and figurines in scenes never envisioned by Mattel. OT readers may especially enjoy "Bend Over Boy," "4H Boy," and the triptych "Bendy Bunny (Anal, Oral & Genital)."

While we're on the subject of transgressive sexuality, don't miss the opening party which kicks off *Sex, Art & Politics* at Mark I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom St., next Saturday, September 18. Chester showcases radical sex photography, including scenes of loving SM from Barbara Nitke, bondage ecstasy by Michael Blue and Midori, and lesbian fetish from Shilo McCabe. Info: (415) 621-6294.

In its own category is author J. McGanty's intriguingly titled,

self-published *Fifty Places To Make Love in Golden Gate Park*. The places are divided into categories like "Especially Pretty," "Nice for a Picnic," "In the Bushes," "Good for a Quickie" and "For Screamers."

It's all rather cursory, and the average fresh-air-loving SF



Davis & Davis' "Bend Over Boy."

queen probably knows more cruising areas than are visited here. But the guide does list some lesser-frequented areas of the park, such as Archery Field, where, as McGanty notes, "you're unlikely to get poked in the butt with an arrow (unless you bring your own)." How about if we bring the bow, and you bring the quiver?

## Grand old potty

The party-planners for last week's Republican National Convention [RNC] in NYC might have pulled *Naked Boys Singing* from their tight-assed little entertainment roster, but all throughout their festivities, Out There got

an earful from a SF hometownie who was there. Personality Marc Huestis reported frequently (to us, and to every other columnist in town) from the front lines: call him a *Naked Boy Singing* the naked truth. According to the Hostess, RNC really stands for Republicans Not Cute.

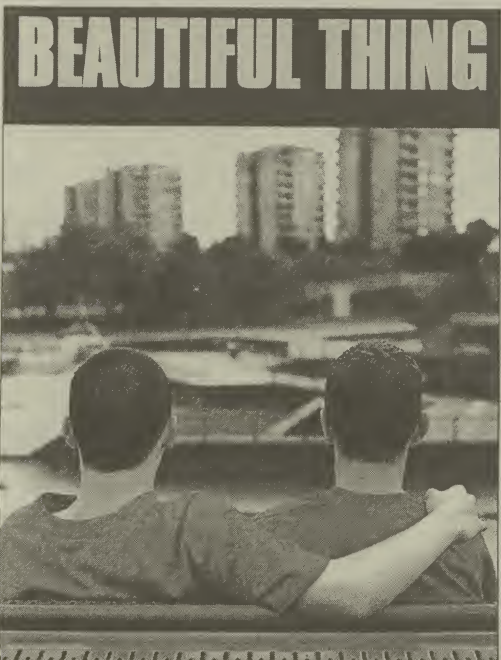
He was there when 750 protesters converged upon Fox-TV headquarters on 6th Ave. for a raucous public *Fox Shut-Up-a-Thon*. Male cheerleaders in miniskirts with scary Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly masks chanted out letters that spelt "S-h-u-t-u-p!" and followed that up with, "The more you watch, the less you know!" and, "Liars, liars, pants on fire!"

Huestis was there when the GOPers threw a party at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. Now, they said that irony was dead after 9/11, but a party for Republicans held at a wax museum? Isn't that redundant? We only hope the wicked

didn't melt. As for the other waxworks, it seems the Whoopi Goldberg and Susan Sarandon replicas were allowed to stay in the house, but the management reportedly put the wax Bill Clinton and John F. Kennedy in the closet for safekeeping.

In Times Square, Huestis spot-

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The poster from *Beautiful Thing* (1996) is a model of sublime simplicity.

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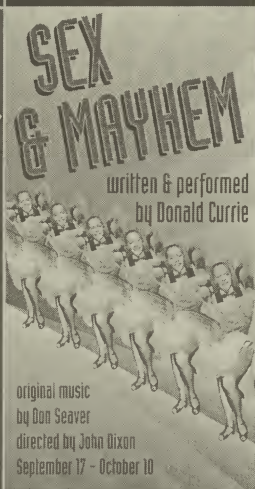
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## Out There

queen probably knows more

## Grand old potty

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Lady Bunny, foreground, with fellow protestors at RNC in NYC.

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## THEATRE

## Fringe experiences

13th SF Fringe Festival is underway

by Richard Dodds

On surreys, fringe is always a good thing. In theater, it can be an unpredictably entertaining thing. During the 13th annual San Francisco Fringe Festival, hundreds of voices will be raised in harmonious clamor that finds coherence in individual passions.

From the dozens of productions being staged in nine downtown venues through Sept. 19, two are profiled below. The first tells the tale of a make-believe Jewish lesbian who becomes a movie beauty. The second is the real-life story of a sexually repressed Christian boy who finds a kind of nirvana on the streets of New Orleans.

More information and a full schedule for Fringe events is available at 673-3847 or at [sf fringe.org](http://sf fringe.org).

**'Faker' and the truth**

In *Faker*, Chicago writer-performer Karen Weinberg imagines "an ugly Jewish baby dyke" who becomes a gorgeous lesbian movie star after extreme plastic surgery. "Whenever the fiction starts to get too close to my actual life," Weinberg said, "we employ this convention of a truth buzzer, and I have to cop to the reality that inspired whatever I'm talking about."

One of those buzzed moments leads Weinberg to talk about her nose job. "It was a high-school graduation present from my parents," she said from Chicago. "I was grateful, though. How typical was that?"

The show was first produced by Second City's training center, and was seen earlier this year at the Chicago Improv Festival. After SF, it's back to Chicago for the Single File Solo Festival.

In the 50-minute show, Weinberg, 31, performs several songs written by accompanist Jonathan Wagner. "One is called 'Take a Hammer to My Skull,' sung by the alter ego as she goes through the first of her many surgeries," Weinberg said. "Another is the Russian Jewish grandmother's advice that it's better to eat than to try to look like a *shiksa*."



Chicago performer Karen Weinberg

Much of Weinberg's theatrical work has been in sketch comedy, and she first envisioned *Faker* in that vein. "I did not want to do one of the bleeding-heart, look-at-my-pain type of shows. But the director said, 'Why would people come to see a one-woman show if they didn't want to learn about you?' And I thought that was a very good point. The show turned into something more closely in-

Minneapolis performer Dave Mondy: finally unzipped in *This Love Train*.

spired by my life."

And that includes the nose job. "There's definitely an irony to being told by your family and the world that you should please the boys. You should look pretty for the boys. And even going to the extent where you get surgery, and then you realize, 'But I don't care about the boys.'"

**Performances at Exit Stage Left**  
at 8:30 p.m. 9/10; 2:30 p.m. 9/12; 7 p.m. 9/14; 10 p.m. 9/16; 7 p.m. 9/18; and 5:30 p.m. 9/19.

**Aboard the 'Train'**

Straight people have their "don't ask, don't tell" policies, too. That's how Minneapolis performer Dave Mondy describes his relationship with his parents when it comes to sex and religion. He broke rules when he invited them to see *This Love Train Is Unstoppable* and *I Am the Conductor* at the Minneapolis Fringe Festival this year.

In the 60-minute piece, Mondy, 27, humorously recounts growing up in a conservative Christian household, and the moment when he could finally unzip his sexuality.

The show begins with Mondy in a clinic getting an STD test, a point of pride for a formerly sexually-repressed kid from Minnesota. Flashbacks take us to New Orleans; the trip is a gift from his father, concerned about Mondy's depression following his first romantic breakup. "On my first night there," he said from Chicago, "I almost stayed in my room. It was like, oh, you can be lonely in any city."

But as soon as he stepped onto Bourbon Street, he was swept up into the party atmosphere. "I was walking around and realized I'm 25, I'm single, I'm not a Christian anymore, and I've never been to a strip club." He never made it into a club, and some other PG-rated events ensued, but something happened.

"It wasn't like I was objectifying women more or anything like that, but by the end of the evening it was the first time I wasn't apologizing for that side of my nature that wanted sex. New Orleans is a great town to realize desire and stuff."

There is a gay angle to the story that didn't make it into *Love Train*. "There was this guy there for a conference, and he was hitting on me for a while before realizing I wasn't gay," Mondy said. "But I ended up walking around with him for hours, and had these great conversations. He was the one who encouraged me not to be

so afraid of things."

Upon returning home, Mondy felt his confidence grow and his sexual experiences multiplying. He also met his current girlfriend of two years.

The show is "looking back on the past six months and all of a sudden, my partners total has gone from one to nine, and that happened after I came back from New Orleans. It kind of got sparked."

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# Biting the bullet

## ACT imports 'The Black Rider'

by Richard Dodds

Listen to the pictures," says Robert Wilson, the director and designer of the image-laden *Black Rider* at the Geary Theater. But a picture can be grasped in an instant, or at least in a time far briefer than the length of a scene that may encompass a

stage picture. That condition arises often enough in this ambitious ACT import to send the mind drifting in search of occupation not provided on stage.

Of course, the show is not made up only of Wilson's atonal tableaux, and there are William S. Burroughs' text and Tom Waits' songs to add life to the nightmarish snapshots. But clearly *The Black Rider* reflects Wilson's idiosyncratic vision, a vision that leaves some theatergoers swooning, and some theatergoers leaving at intermission.

The story, told mostly in rhyme, is built from a German folktale about a clerk who must prove his marksmanship in order to win the hand of a woodsman's daughter. As his abilities with a rifle are practically nil, he easily accepts a stranger's offer of magic bullets that never miss their mark. But who is to decide what the

mark is? "Some of these bullets are for thee," says the ominous figure, "and some are for me."

Wilson uses a madhouse vaudeville to frame the tale, and the notion that the inmates are reenacting the story begins to make some sense of what can look like nonsense. In the moment, Wilson's style doesn't always look that different from sitcom parodies of avant-garde theater, but reflection has a way of refining the experience.

This production was first staged in London earlier this year, and will move to Sydney following its sole US engagement here. The cast is an international mélange of talent, with some performers apparently cast for their quirky looks and others for their theatrical polish. The latter is the case with Matt McGrath, a Broadway veteran, who plays the clerk as a kind of cross between Buster Keaton and a wind-up doll.

McGrath possesses the performing discipline that co-star



Matt McGrath has theatrical polish and performing discipline in *Rider*.

Marianne Faithfull generally lacks as the devil with the cache of magic bullets. She moves about the stage without the presence of a trained performer, and her famously ragged voice suffers from the lack of studio support. The devil is a relatively small part, but standby Nigel Richards is still called upon to play matinees —

which is probably a benefit to the production. ▼

**The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets** will run at the Geary Theater through Oct. 3. Tickets are \$25-\$80. Call 749-2250 or go to [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org).

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# Bedroom eyes, authentic voice

by Stephanie von Buchau

Hey, I like a really good-looking tenor as much as the next opera queen, but face it, good looks are seldom allied to a great voice. Oh, there was the late Franco Corelli, with his brooding, swashbuckling sexiness, and there was the late Alfredo Kraus, with his slim build, golden curls and aquamarine eyes, but after that, you either got looks or voice.

So of course, when I first saw the photo of the ruby-lipped, jet-mopped, bedroom-eyed Chinese tenor Yu Qiang Dai on the cover of his first album, *Opera Arias* (EMI Classics), I feared the worst. Even more frightening was the announcement on the back that this was "Another Tibor Rudas production." Rudas is the master of "Three Tenors" hype.

With grim anticipation I played the first item, Des Grieux's "Donna non vidi mai" from Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. Then I hit

the repeat button several times. I was reminded of SF Opera's Pamela Rosenberg telling me she liked this opera, but couldn't mount it because she couldn't find a suitable production. And I muttered, "Better you should find a suitable tenor," because, despite its title, *Manon Lescaut* is the tenor's opera. Yu Qiang Dai has the youthful, sexy sound, the high notes and the liquid phrasing of an ideal Des Grieux.

I constantly remind people that you can't tell voice size or stamina from CDs, but if this guy actually has the dramatic tenor it sounds like, and if he is one-10th as good-looking as his cover photo, bring him on — and yes, in *Manon Lescaut*, of all Puccini operas the most unfairly neglected. Or in *Tosca*, *Bohème* or *Turandot*, all roles in his repertory, and all represented on this album, along with Verdi, Ponchielli, Massenet, Mascagni and Donizetti. Jose Antonio Molina is the in-sync conductor.



It's hard to describe the Chinese tenor's sound, because he is so Italianate. He has been perfectly schooled in languages; his vowels in "Pourquoi me reveiller" (the only French item on the album) are excellent, as is his caressing way with diminuendo and shading. In the Italian arias, not just his pronunciation sounds authentic, but also that forward thrust that the Italians call *slancio*. He's musically neater than Corelli at his worst, but the voice has that same throb, almost a sob in places, that is very reminiscent of the late Italian tenor. And you remember how critics who hated Franco when he was singing are now wishing he'd been cloned?

### Forward pass

Yet I don't think of Yu Qiang Dai as a Corelli clone; he just has the open, forward, Italian voice production that gives a tenor-fan goosebumps, allied to enough musicality and good taste to make his singing as satisfying as it is thrilling. Yes, he trumpets through "Nessun dorma," but he also makes tender sense of Calaf's other aria, something you almost never hear on recitals. And even in a heavy piece like "Mamma, qual vino" from Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, he never sounds overpowered.

Yu Qiang Dai is slightly less triumphant as the Duke in *Rigoletto*, or singing "Quando le sere al placido" from *Luisa Miller*. A warm, exciting sound and a passionate surge to the music's climax are not as important in Verdi as being able to turn phrases in an elegant, sophisticated manner that the young tenor hasn't quite mastered. But he's no bull in a China shop, either. Nemorino's "Una furtiva lagrima" comes off stunningly, with a skillfully employed mezza voce and portamenti to "dai" for. ▼

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# Scam artists bring home the bacon

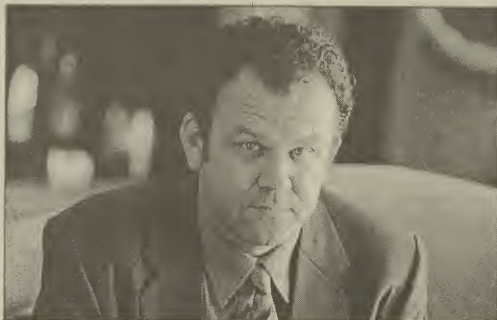
Actors John C. Reilly & Diego Luna are a 'Criminal' team

by David Lamble

In the opening scene of *Criminal*, first-time director Gregory Jacobs' smart adaptation of the Argentinean caper film *Nine Queens*, a young man with the face of a choirboy and the heart of a thief tries to hustle a casino cocktail waitress with one of the oldest cons going: paying for a Coke with a \$100 bill, then scamming her for the change. It's hot outside, and the young man decides to go for broke: scam another waitress. This time, someone is watching. A burly "vice" cop spots the bunko and soon has the young man spread-eagled on a gaming table. Taking the money for "evidence," the "cop" takes his "prisoner" out to his "squad car."

As with the darkly funny *Nine Queens*, appearances are entirely deceiving. The "cop" is bunko artist Richard Gaddis (John C. Reilly), and the young thief-in-training is Rodrigo, soon to be renamed Brian (Diego Luna). This is not love at first sight. Neither man trusts the other, but as Richard confides to Rodrigo, "You have something that money and practice can't buy. You look like a nice guy." Later, Richard will amend that thought and warn Rodrigo/Brian not to "give me that raped virgin look!"

*Criminal* is a smart and sassy look at an LA that most of us will never see: the underbelly of a city



Reilly as Richard in *Criminal*: 'I'm not pretending to be your friend.'

on the move, where everybody is a potential mark, where weaseling an old lady out of a couple hundred bucks and a family heirloom or convincing a timid middle-age spinster trapped in an elevator to part with her purse is just batting practice for the real game.

Richard and Rodrigo are looking for a big score, and as luck would have it, one soon falls into their laps, a rare batch of antique currency and, better yet, a rich customer who will pay top dollar, then conveniently skip the country. If the plot sounds like a re-hashed version of *The Sting* or a riverboat-gambler episode of the '50s TV show *Maverick*, rest assured it isn't. *Criminal* is the anti-buddy movie: this is not Redford and Newman or Murphy and

Nolte just testing each other's limits before they go all soft and lovey-dovey. Richard and Rodrigo will never really bond, but since they're stuck together for a mad-cap 24/7, they will make nice: tell the world they're "half brothers," while each is really just waiting for the right moment to dump the other.

#### Gene pool

John C. Reilly is taller and thinner than he may appear on screen in such roles as Jennifer Aniston's clueless pothead husband in *The Good Girl*, a fleshy male porn star in *Boogie Nights*, or the goodhearted cop-turned-guardian angel in *Magnolia*. Not particularly eager to discuss his past work (at one point he re-

ferred me to the Criterion DVD edition of *Boogie Nights* for behind-the-scenes dish), he's a little uneasy with the label of "the new Gene Hackman." He says, "I wouldn't want that to get back to the real Gene Hackman, who's still doing pretty well for himself."

Reilly is a little defensive about the number of times he's played cops on screen. "Only four times in about 30 pictures. Those roles just stand out for you for some reason." Reilly relished his work on *Criminal* with Diego Luna, who, with his childhood friend Gael Garcia Bernal, gave a sensational performance as a horny Mexican teenager in Alfonso Cuarón's brilliantly funny road comedy *Y Tu Mama Tambien*. Luna's international film debut was a scene where he was buck naked, screwing his girlfriend for the last time. Insisting that this was the last time he would play a teenager, Luna has had to make the concession of growing a patchy beard for *Criminal* in order to age his character to at least the drinking age. Reilly says Diego is a sweetheart, although a much more nuanced actor than his brief career might indicate.

"People ask me what Diego's like, and I have to say he's perfect casting for the role he plays in this movie. Because on the one hand, he does look really sweet, he's truly a nice guy, and on the other hand, he's very clever. He was a child actor in Mexico. He and I

immediately hit it off. We had a lot of conversations over lunch, because he's just coming into the American film business. I think what I got from Diego was a sense of the innocence and enthusiasm that I had when I was starting out."

Reilly concedes that at first some thought he was an odd choice to play the scheming Richard, but director/writer Jacobs (who co-wrote *Criminal* based on Argentinean director Fabien Belinsky's original script for *Nine Queens*) wanted Reilly precisely because he could put a more human face on what could be a pretty unlikable character. The Argentinean actor Ricardo Darín, who plays the part in *Nine Queens*, gives it a much darker, more David Mamet-like feel. His character comes off more like a cornered sewer rat than a guy just trying to get by. "Richard's a very honest character in some ways, with people who are in on the scams with him. 'Look, I'm not pretending to be your friend. If I'm asking you something, it's because I'm trying to work out your role in the scam.' There's many different places in the movie where I try and cut Diego's character out of the deal. At the end, I yell at him, 'Don't be mad at me, because I told I was a con man!'"

#### Troll line

Reilly explains how the open-

page 31 ►

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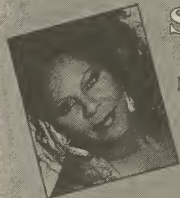
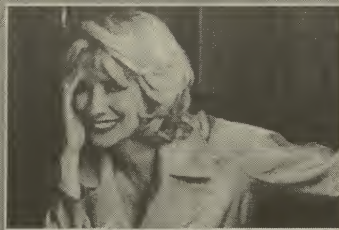
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# Gay aristocratic Marxist rules

The film career of director Luchino Visconti

by Tavo Amador

Openly gay Luchino Visconti (1906-76) was the most sensual of Italy's post-World War II directors. Born Count Luchino Visconti di Modrone, one of seven children, his bisexual father was a Duke, but his maternal grandfather had been a peasant. His mother was a *nouveau riche* beauty whose money replenished the ducal coffers. Visconti's masterpiece, '63's *Il Gattopardo* (*The Leopard*), starring Burt Lancaster and Alain Delon, plays the Castro Theatre September 10-16, providing an opportunity to assess his career.

In the '30s, Visconti designed costumes for French filmmaker Jean Renoir. He pawned family jewels to finance his first movie, the gritty *Ossessione* ('42), an unauthorized version of James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*



Scene from Visconti's *The Leopard*.

that used nonprofessional actors. It ran afoul of Fascist censors, but nevertheless was a hit in Italy. An anti-Fascist, Visconti allied himself with Italy's Marxist Party because they opposed Mussolini. During

the Second World War, his palazzo was used by the Resistance, and the Gestapo jailed him.

He formed a theatre company in Rome, producing plays by Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, and Chekhov. Marcello Mastroianni was among those who learned their craft under his tutelage. He returned to movies with *La Terra Trema* ('48), more neo-realism about Sicilian fishermen, and it also angered Italy's right-wing government. In '51, he directed Anna Magnani in *Bellissima*. She's a stage mother obsessed with making her no-talent daughter a star, one of the few films showing the comic lunacy in Magnani's acclaimed intensity. He guided her again in an episode of *Siamo Donne* ('53). *Senso* ('54) is his first look at 19th-century Italian nobility. Set in 1866 in Austrian-occupied Venice, it depicts the relationship between a military officer and his Italian mistress.

*Sonnambula*, *La Traviata* ('55), *Anna Bolena*, and *Iphigenia in Tauris* ('57). *La Divina* fell in love with him, not realizing he was gay, although Visconti never pretended otherwise. She complained that he preferred spending evenings hitting Milanese nightspots with Leonard Bernstein rather than with her. When she learned the truth, she was shocked and angry, but overcame those feelings, and they remained friends.

He returned to movies with *White Nights* ('57), about a romance between a shy youth (Mastroianni) and a woman waiting for the reappearance of her lost love. The internationally praised *Rocco and His Brothers* ('60) depicted tragedies befalling a poor Sicilian family when they move to Milan. It starred the beautiful Delon and featured a homosexual subplot.

He directed an episode of *Boccaccio '70* about a wife (Romy Schneider) who charges her husband for sex, and then made *The Leopard*, his stunning, lush but unsentimental look at a Sicilian prince (Lancaster). Set in 1860, it's a sympathetic yet unflinching account of what the noble classes do to ensure their privileged survival in the face of Garibaldi's Red Shirts and the *Risorgimento*, a movement resulting in Italy's unification. It had many parallels with Visconti's own background.

Although a huge critical and popular success in Italy, France and elsewhere in Europe, Twentieth Century Fox felt *The Leopard* was too long and too foreign for American and British viewers, so audiences there saw a badly edited, poorly dubbed, washed-out print, to the dismay of those who had seen the dazzling original. Unsurprisingly, it failed.

*Sandra* ('65) is a woman having an incestuous relationship with her brother, and *The Stranger* ('67) was a coldly received version of Albert



Luchino Visconti: unsentimental

Camus' novel. In *The Damned* ('70), Visconti seemed to suggest that homosexuality and incest were core components of Nazi Germany, easily his most controversial film. It starred Dirk Bogarde and Helmut Berger, and earned Visconti an Oscar nomination for best screenplay. Bogarde met *Death in Venice* ('71), an acclaimed, moving version of Thomas Mann's homoerotic novella superbly capturing a destructive obsession amidst waning aristocratic elegance on the eve of World War I.

*Ludwig II* was a biography of Bavaria's 19th-century king, the gay devotee of Wagner, and was magnificently photographed and costumed, but got mixed notices. *Conversation Piece* ('74) was a fascinating look at contemporary sexual mores and homoeroticism, with Lancaster and Berger, but critics trashed it, and it flopped. Despite poor health, he completed *The Innocent* ('76), another rich, unflinching look at 19th-century Italian aristocracy, in a story about a married man, his mistress, and a child who suffers for their actions.

Visconti's best films capture the grace, elegance, complexity, and cruelty — sometimes accidental, sometimes deliberate — of 19th-century aristocratic Italian life. It was a world he understood. His view of the downtrodden is tinged with genuine *noblesse oblige*. It's a unique legacy that will continue to grow over the decades. ▼

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## Cintra Wilson

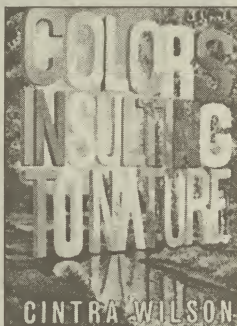
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down into the ash of humdrum reality." Wilson writes big, gutsy prose that challenges the reader to study his own experience and come up with anything that could remotely equal the extravagance of this author's imagination.

### Marin high

Wilson's jaundiced nihilism is often hilarious and never less than engaging. The second chapter of the book, where Wilson describes Peppy Normal's Fairfax production of *The Sound of Music*, had me laughing so hard I had to wipe tears from my eyes. Most of the book takes place in the Bay Area of the 1980s, with significant emphasis on the counterculture of Marin County, the Haight and the South of Market gay scene. The skewering of this cultural microcosm, combined with significant omissions from the book jacket and Wilson's press kit, suggest there is more than a little resemblance between the author and her fame-or-bust protagonist, Liza Normal.

The many years Cintra Wilson spent living and writing in the Bay Area, for a variety of local publications, have somehow mysteriously disappeared from her résumé. She is now a New York writer, with no credits that do not relate to national



publications, the Hollywood elite, or Manhattan. One might easily conclude that the West Coast losers and loonies deconstructed so viciously in *Colors Insulting to Nature* are simply the little people Wilson feels she must climb over to assume her rightful place at the top of an Empire State Building of fame. Liza Normal may simply be the Faye Wray of Wilson's carefully calculated Kongian ascent. But to give the devil her due, *Colors Insulting to Nature* proves Wilson can deliver the goods.

For those so inclined, Cintra Wilson may be mercilessly skewered in person at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books in San Francisco on September 27, at 7 p.m.; or at Booksmith in San Francisco on September 28, also at 7 p.m. ▼



# Spanish gays & 'Bulgarian Lovers'

Handsome immigrant, culture shock in new movie

by David Lamble

In the new film *Bulgarian Lovers*, a man acquires an illegal immigrant boyfriend the way you or I might pick up a used sofa bed at a flea market, or a particularly exotic pet whose papers are not quite in order. If this neo-colonial arrangement upsets your political scruples, rest assured that pretty soon, the Bulgarian lover has taken over the Spanish architect's life, and moved in his Bulgarian girlfriend to boot.

Like virtually all Spanish queer films, *Bulgarian Lovers* is not a cheat in the love department, or any department. Daniel (Fernando Guillen Cuervo from *Law of Desire*) and Kyril (Dritan Biba) first must negotiate the whole top/bottom thing, and such basic sexual etiquette as, When does not really mean yes? Daniel, who narrates the story through voiceover, direct address to the camera, and the innovative use of a home videocamera, explains the way in which Bulgarians are linguistically dyslexic.

"Bulgarians have affirmative and negative signs mixed up. They nod from left to right to say yes, and up and down to say no. Confusing. In my opinion, it's because they're a rebellious nation."

Daniel finds out just how rebellious when Kyril starts using his luxury apartment as headquarters for a variety of petty and not-so-petty crimes. Daniel also discovers that instead of Kyril becoming his boytoy property, the Bulgarian himself asserts his authority in the bedroom department by having a pair of masked hoodlums visit Daniel when he's screwing another

er pretty immigrant.

We've come to think of Pedro Almodovar as the brand name for excellence in Spanish queer films, but *Bulgarian Lovers'* director Eloy de la Iglesia was once hailed as the Fassbinder of Spain. Iglesia's early gay films *Hidden Pleasures* (1976) and *The Deputy* (1978) were the first to test the limits of post-Franco freedoms. A heroin addiction cost him his cinema crown, and the life of his younger boyfriend and muse.

*Bulgarian Lovers* marks a triumphant return to filmmaking after 15 years. How fitting that his star, Fernando Guillen Cuervo, is the same actor who shone as the reckless director Pablo, determined to stir his art with his guts, in Almodovar's breakout melodrama *Law of Desire*.

For those insisting on a closer check of *Bulgarian Lovers'* filmic DNA, note the scene where Daniel and Kyril stroll drunkenly arm-in-arm along a deserted Madrid alley as a street-cleaner shoots a phallic stream of water down the pavement. A parallel scene occurs in almost exactly the same place in *Law of Desire*, when Pablo is walking with his sister (who was once his brother before she embarked on an affair with their father) as she begs the street-cleaner, "Don't hold back, hose me down!" After this erotic baptism, the plots of both films take a darker turn.

## Pamper proof

Filmed before the Madrid train bombing added a somber note to the tides of peoples washing across the continent, *Bulgarian Lovers* pokes fun at the conflicting impulses, Midas and Eros, fueling the European Union.

Daniel's gay peers urge him to get a grip on his fantasy that Kyril sees him as anything more than a business opportunity. They note that if you pamper these immigrant hedonists, you'll only drive their price up.

The film delivers a marvelous series of set pieces. Daniel returns to Sofia with Kyril and his girlfriend Kalina (Anita Sinkovic) for a proper Bulgarian wedding, only to note that the country has been emptied of virtually all its young men. One of the few young men remaining, Kyril's humpy younger cousin, is giving him the eye — so that his papers can also be fixed.

Actor Dritan Biba is a marvelous fit for Kyril. Like the younger Antonio Banderas did for Almodovar, Biba can assume any position with a mixture of tenderness and braggadocio, all without losing command of his incendiary masculinity. The Albanian-born actor manages the tricky nude scenes seamlessly, showing us all we may want to see without surrendering anything of value.

A wild party-with authentic Hollywood props both recalls the men-only poolside soirees of George Cukor and addresses modern fears that real men may be the world's most endangered species. As one wise old queen quips, "These boys have come to the conclusion that in Spain, all men are either cops or fairies, 'cause only those talk to them." *Opens Friday.* ▼



Kyril (Dritan Biba) and Daniel (Fernando Guillen Cuervo) are a pair.



Daniel observes the Bulgarian manners of Kyril, gives him bling-bling.

## Criminal

◀ page 29

ing scene where Richard "arrests" Rodrigo in the casino sets up the power balance between the characters. "Richard looks for people who are in trouble or need something. He's in the casino, kind of treading water, because he lost his regular, this guy he only refers to as 'The Jew.' You can only do small scams by yourself. So he's kind of trolling in the casino, and when he sees Rodrigo get into trouble, he says, 'That's perfect. If I pull this kid out of here, he kind of owes me.'"

In the film's production notes, Diego Luna says that, in the character of Rodrigo, he glimpsed just a whiff of the middle-class kid he played in *Y Tu Mama*.

"In creating my character, I had help from a friend from East LA who showed me around his barrio. Rodrigo has had more opportunities than many other Lati-

nos have. He was born here, went to school here, and speaks both English and Spanish. Rodrigo is not a gang member. He's not a *cholo*. He knows how to maneuver in both worlds. He wants to be a good guy, but the only way he knows how to make money is by cheating people."

The balance of power in the relationship shifts when Rodrigo soft-talks an old Mexican lady into letting him into her house by claiming in Spanish to be born in San Juan Capistrano. Reilly, who notes how most movies shot in LA pay scant attention to the city's huge Latino population, explains that *Criminal* mirrors the real-life accommodations between white and brown people in the Southland. "Richard's not willing to give anything to anyone unless he absolutely has to. And there is a point where Rodrigo proves himself indispensable, so Richard is forced to give him a little bit of power in that moment." *Opens Friday.* ▼

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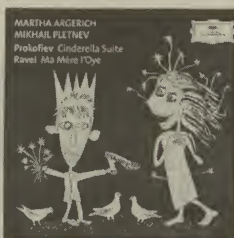
# The Russians (& Thais) are coming

by Tim Pfaff

Mikhail Pletnev, one of today's top pianists and a part-time resident of Thailand, recently played a Bangkok recital in honor of the Queen's birthday. As the first pre-griatic Western musician to play Bangkok in years, he raised hopes.

But, on the night, the Queen was in her counting house doing whatever queens do there, and Pletnev made a virtual no-show musically. Striding in from the wings like Lurch, he roasted an elongated short program of piano chestnuts during which there were only brief flashes of the man's genius. I sympathized more than criticized, yet lamented.

Gratefully, DG has compensated with a thrilling CD of Pletnev's own, new two-piano transcription of Prokofiev's *Cinderella*,



dedicated to and here performed with the incomparable Martha Argerich, coupled with Ravel's *Mother Goose* for piano-four hands (the same four). If the program sounds silly, the pianism is not.

Argerich, with her characteristic generosity toward protégés, has already performed *Cinderella* with one of them at Tanglewood. The music is an unalloyed joy, captivating throughout its 35 minutes.

(The full ballet is a three-act.) A master conductor of Russian ballet, Pletnev has made a transcription that doesn't just maintain the work's narrative sweep, but also its bounce. It's a compression of the score in every sense: not just a shortening, but also a reduction of the massive orchestration to its most telling essentials. What emerges is a magical pianistic *pas de deux* (Argerich in the left channel, Pletnev in the right) that turns what might have been "highlights" into a deeply satisfying narrative.

The piercing staccatos of the Quarrel give way to a "Winter" Adagio-Allegro of lilting complexity and charm. The centerpiece, "Cinderella's Waltz," is six minutes of the most sinuous piano-playing imaginable, punctuated by gestures that accent the essential harshness of the title character's situation. The Gavotte is a deliciously off-kilter, syncopated piece that epitomizes the feel of the playing throughout: deep and firm, yet light, as if the pianos' keys were hot to the touch.

The spritely, immaculate prestos of the Gallop are exquisitely contrasted with the ensuing *Valse lente*, a heart-piercing re-

turn to a world of dashed hopes. The Finale, the noisy pianistic tour de force that has been teased throughout, breaks for an Allegro espressivo of impressionist delicacy before hurtling on a climax of shattering power—with Pletnev creating the sound of the bells by slamming one hand on the piano's strings (while still playing with the other) over Argerich's thick, heavy, descending chords.

I can think of no better musical escape from the campaign season. The lusciously played Ravel offers even more beguiling charms, and pianism of the most elevated sort in "Empress of the Pagodas."

## Rose bowl

Ironically, the young Russian piano firebrand Olga Kern, a Gold Medal winner at the 2001 Van Cliburn Competition, has also weighed in with a Harmonia Mundi CD, also of transcriptions, all by Rachmaninov. It culminates with the composer's great Variations on a Theme of Corelli, Op. 42, but stops along the way to smell a large bouquet of intoxicating roses.

While the woman clearly has



iron in her fists and gets better the harder the music is, what marks her for a lasting career is the consummate taste of her playing. Gratefully, for her the competition is over, and with nothing left to prove, she's free to make music of uncommon insight and maturity. It's less her control of a piece as large and unwieldy as the Corelli Variations than her unflinching judgment of its mercurial moods that triumphs.

The Suite drawn from Bach's Violin Partita in E Major leaves no doubt that she is a serious musician with a mind as nimble as her fingers. The 10 variations between these pillars of the piano repertoire are dazzling in their variety of expression. Expect much. ▼

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## Vocal world wonders

Three women from farther afield

by Jason Victor Serinus

Rokia Traoré  
*Bowmboi*  
Nonesuch

The voice is like no other. At times low and intimate, with a microphone-enhanced edge that suggests she's singing just to you, other times soaring and animated, Rokia Traoré's extraordinarily flexible instrument speaks of her life as an expatriate from West Africa's Mali. Beyond the clarity of her lyrics, sung in native Bamanan with an urgency that suggests she is singing for her life, there lies an authenticity of expression that immediately puts her in the same class as a Billy Holiday or Bessie Smith. This is my reality, sings 29 year-old Rokia Traoré, with a



beauty and brilliance that immediately establish her as an artist of the first order.

The US release of Traoré's third album *Bowmboi* follows its European issue last fall. The CD has already sold well over 100,000 copies in France and sparked the highest possible critical reaction. With music and lyrics by Traoré, timelessly modern arrangements created in collaboration with musicians playing authentic instruments, and two tracks brilliantly supported by San Francisco's genre-busting Kronos Quartet, the album stands poised to create a sensation. Traoré, the daughter of a now-retired diplomat, began singing as a teenager. Even before the 1998 release of her debut album *Mouineissa*, she won the Radio France International prize for African Discovery of the Year. Her follow-up *Wanita* (Label Bleu/Indigo) was nominated for a BBC World Music Award, made the *New York Times*' "Best of 2000" list, and was chosen as the best folk/roots/world release of 2000 in the fRoots critics' poll.

If you're wondering why her disc bridges so many categories (she's even been booked by SF Jazz), it's because Traoré's concern is not with marketing but rather with truth. From songs that urge women to transcend traditional gender roles and one, "Kote Don," which states, "I dislike what is rigid, set/What 'is' without knowing why," Rokia Traoré's mesmerizing, trance-inducing music

must be heard. She performs at SF Jazz on October 23.

Renee Olstead  
*Reprise*

Lolita, move over. Your jaw may drop when you hear "Summertime," the first of 12 tracks on this disc of standards and classics sung by the sensational Renée Olstead. The woman has every sexy insinuation, every purr and coo, every jazz riff and Broadway belt under the sun on the tip of her tongue.



Olstead knows just how to tease the pants off every note (and a good proportion of her listeners). Hers is a rare kind of mastery, one that transcends formula because she's so good. That all this comes from the throat of an ultra-sophisticated, little-girl-voiced 14-year-old (now turned 15) defies credulity.

It takes supreme confidence to issue a debut recording titled only with your name. Olstead's got that and more. Brilliant arrangements of "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do," "Taking a Chance on Love," "What a Difference a Day Makes," Barry Manilow's "Meet Me Midnight," the Gershwins' "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Sunday Kind of Love" and other greats, these performances are so precocious it's scary. Positively irresistible.

Agnes Baltsa  
From Greece with Love  
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## BOOKS

# Skaterboy with a heart of gold

by Trebor Healey

*Clay's Way* by Blair Mastbaum;  
Alyson Publications, \$12.95

In his debut novel *Clay's Way*, Blair Mastbaum has written a brilliantly raw and insightful

coming-of-age story for a new queer generation. With its punk sensibility and engaging young narrator, it offers a refreshingly askew look at age-old conundrums through a thoroughly up-to-date queer lens, marking Mastbaum as an important new voice.

The story begins with fum-

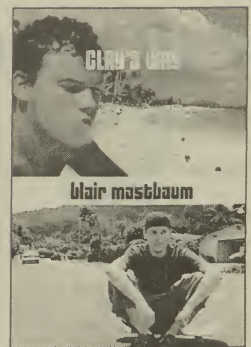
bling, 15-year-old skaterboy and haiku-writer Sam, a rebellious, sarcastic, self-deprecating teenager, and his burgeoning crush on the Oahu punkboy's version of the superlative male, Clay: 17, surferboy, pothead, "brah." He has the requisite blonde girlfriend, the pickup, the body, the tattoos, but

the stereotype ends there. He's weirdly available to Sam, even open, but skittish as only a cool boy can be. He's a brilliant study in how a cool dude copes with his own uncoolness — not too well. It's a mixture, parts grace and reticence, and it fascinates and disturbs, page after page. Mastbaum's nuanced rendering of Clay will leave you liking him, even against your own better judgment, in all his weirdness, cruelty and confusion. So goes a crush.

Mastbaum impresses with his plotting and description. His sensory descriptions are so spot-on that I still smell Clay's truck and feel the salt on Sam's skin. The climactic scene between the boys on a Kauai beach is superbly evocative of young love and animal magnetism. The story twists and turns amidst the seedy paradise of the Honolulu suburbs and its alcohol- and drug-fueled teenage parties.

The secondary characters are well-drawn, too, including Sam's best friend, Jared, an endearing dork, and Jared's sister, Kendra, who acts as a sort of confidante. Clay's hippie Mom, who lets him do whatever he wants, is a wonderful depiction of the disinterested, indulgent '60s-generation parent.

I wanted to know more about Sam's parents, who are decidedly bourgeois and un-hippie. But Sam has shut them out, and his parents are generally blah-blah voices outside his bedroom, where Sam beats off amidst his piled clothing, dreaming of Clay,



even mimicking him. Clay is everything Sam wishes he himself was. Or maybe not.

That self-discovery drives the story, which succeeds because of Sam's youthful dynamism and courage as he rushes headlong into love. He's truly willing to try anything, which makes the reading of this book a wild, fun ride, and also a poignantly sad one. He's brave, ironic and droll, and he wants to grow up so badly that he ends up learning the truth despite himself.

In the end, his strong heart gains your faith. As a coming of age novel, *Clay's Way* hits pay dirt because, instead of a happy ending, it ends on a note of expansion: Something has happened to Sam that, after the smoke has cleared, causes him to realize he's no longer Sam the kid, but Sam the man. ▼

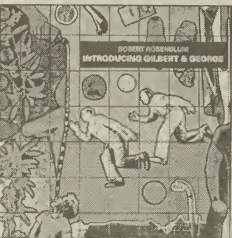
Blair Mastbaum will read from *Clay's Way* on Thursday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. (415) 431-0891

## Gilbert & George

◀ Arts cover

tion the subject of AIDS, bring to mind Keith Haring's pictures, yet with radically different intentions.

Rosenblum does introduce the images and themes, but French journalist François Jonquet's more extensive, decade-in-the-making volume of interviews brings us more directly into the artists' world. After reading it, you'll know that Gilbert is the one with dark hair (and is actually Italian) and George is "the slightly balding one who wears glasses." Jonquet managed to penetrate their universe after learning that Gilbert & George had a listed phone number. His cold call yielded an invitation into their restored 18th-century house in the funky, racially mixed area of London known as Spitalfields. Their home, we learn, has no kitchen (they eat out every night) and is filled with thousands



of vases by neglected 19th-century ceramists. The home is also the site of their studio, which has recently been upgraded to digital technology standards.

Jonquet's conversations make these guys rather lovable, if you can stomach their spoken use of "we," as in, "We've simply given up being boring." (That's Gilbert, turning a rather Pet Shop Boys phrase.) In sections mostly arranged thematically, Gilbert & George often contradict themselves like oily politicians. They declare their work is "Art for All," yet their highly refined, theatrical manner seems just the opposite. "The idea of 'Art for All' was all about getting people to come

along with us. Not to put ourselves on their level," says George, the more verbose of the pair. Gilbert is more terse: "We want to create our own universe."

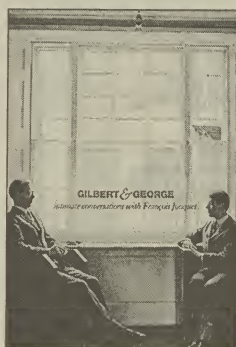
### Porn again

Jonquet gingerly asks about his subjects' sex life, something that's difficult to not wonder about. They admit their love of porn books, which are carefully organized in their home in a separate library. They talk about flirting with waiters and allude to their interests in rent boys, whose adverts they've appropriated into their work. Yet in keeping with their British identification, they're coy about details.

The interviewer gets more direct answers to questions about Gilbert & George's documented conservative political beliefs, even if early on, George states, "We're artists, we have nothing to do with politics." They're self-admitted Thatcherites, and here make complaints about high taxes and praise the private sector. These are problematic elements, and their comments aren't terribly convincing. Thankfully, they're contained to a mercifully brief section.

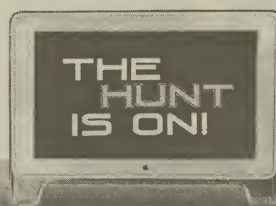
They also manage to deflect other difficult topics. There are no women in their work because "we started off representing ourselves, two men," George states. "We never said to ourselves, 'Definitely no women!' We just didn't feel that women would convey a message," Gilbert adds, somewhat unconvincingly. They have befriended a schizophrenic Bangladeshi streetperson, "our lovely Nurul," and seem to hold a fascination for down-and-out streetpeople, whom they've photographed, invoking the fine line between honoring and exploiting their subjects. Somehow the duo's cleverness usually outshines the thorny stuff.

In both books, Gilbert & George score major points with the authors for having the balls to display their slim, uninflected bodies in all their middle-aged decline. They're brave enough to make fools of themselves for their art. Rosenblum includes a 1997 quote that may sum up their ap-

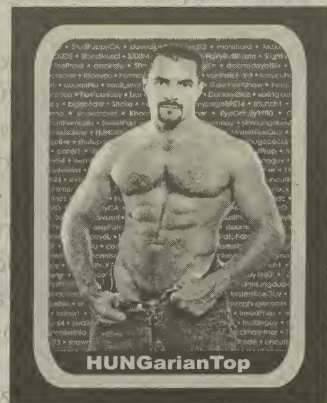
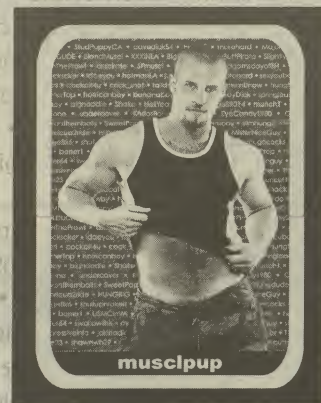


peal: "For us, being naked in front of the public, we are trying to make ourselves vulnerable in front of the viewer. That is very important, because art is based on making ourselves more vulnerable and opening up what's inside us. We never look at the outside world; we always look at the inside world." Rosenblum's book samples the air in there, while Jonquet's is a total immersion in Gilbert & George's sometimes cloying queer fragrance. Proceed with caution. ▼

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## Women vocalists

◀ previous page

Thanks to the 2004 Olympics, DG has just re-released this priceless soulful recording of Greek songs by Mikis Theodorakis and other 20th-century Greek contemporaries. Accompanied by Stavros Xarhakos' Athens Experimental Orchestra, with solo bouzouki by Kostas Papadopoulos, mezzo-soprano Agnes Baltas abandons all pretense to the rich operatic vocalism that made her a sensational Carmen, and sings with unaffected ease.

I first learned of this disc, long out-of-print, over 10 years ago, and spent the next six months searching out a used copy. Why? The music is so damn beautiful. Listen to Xarhakos' "Aspri mera ke



ya mas (There will be better days, even for us)," with its repeated downward plucks on the harp strings reinforcing Baltas's heart-touching "I will water the time with my salt tears." It and the Barcarolle "Varkarolla" may be tearful, but other tracks feature the kind of join-hands-in-circle and kick-up-your-heels music that we remember from *Zorba the Greek*. ▼



# Fall preview on the lavender tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Now that the summer miniseries are over — the Democratic National Convention, the Olympics, and that scary *Mein Kampf* remake, the Republican National Convention — viewers can all take a deep breath and enjoy some new and not-necessarily-mindless entertainment as fall programming begins, some shows debuting as early as tonight.

NBC promo-ed its new lineup assiduously during the Olympics to get the jump on the other networks, and it seems to be working. While CBS, ABC and Fox are all re-running their old lineup, NBC is out of the gate with sitcoms and dramas, some of which promise to be must-sees.

Our vote isn't quite in yet on the queerest new show this season, the animated sitcom *Father of the Pride*, which debuted the Tuesday after the Olympics, and which NBC has run several times already. Starring John Goodman, Lisa Kudrow (*Friends*) and Carl Reiner, this series created by the makers of *Shrek* looks terrific and has equally terrific actors, but the premise might be a little too perverse for a wide audience.

Goodman, a lion, his father, Reiner, and Kudrow, a panda, are exotic animals working in Las Vegas for Siegfried and Roy. Beginning to see the perversion quotient, are you? The show is rife

with queer jokes (the Indian elephant and his buzzard lover are gay, S&R are gay, etc.), raunchy cross-species sex-play, and lots more low-brow ideas mixed with high-brow interpretation. Think *The Simpsons* with more vulgarity, not as much wit and mostly animals. *FotP* is certainly campy, but also a tad creepy, like a John Waters cartoon. Definitely worth watching at least once.

The same can be said of *Joey*, which debuts tonight. This *Friends* spin-off stars the hunky but not-too-bright Joey (Matt LeBlanc), now in Hollywood to pursue his acting career.

Well-written and often funny, but unlike the smooth ensemble of *Friends* or *Frasier*, totally dependent on its main character.

One series viewers are likely to get hooked on is tonight's preview drama, *Medical Investigations*, debuting in the ER time slot (it also airs Friday this week, same time). Starring the sexy-strange Neal McDonough, who played the sexy-corrupt DA on the excellent but ill-fated *Boomtown* last season, this succinctly named show dramatizes real cases of bizarre medical crises. Having seen a preview, we would say it's highly compelling, in no small part due to McDonough and co-star Kelli Williams (*The Practice*).

## Big island

We weren't terribly impressed with the debut of *Hawaii*. We're old enough to remember *Hawaii Five-O*, and loved *Magnum, P.I.*, even after we found out Tom Selleck was a Republican. This action-drama is a cross between *CSI* at the beach and *VIP*, with a little *Vegas* tossed in. More for a younger (teenage) set, we think. Lots of eye-candy, not much substance.

Another NBC series we will likely give a pass to is *LAX*, starring the fabulous Heather Locklear and Blair Underwood (*L.A. Law*). If you think a series set in one of the

world's largest airports will excite you every week, tune in. But the Aaron Spelling-style treatment of this drama left us tepid. Locklear, a stupendous comedic actress, is not used to best effect, nor is Underwood, an excellent dramatic actor. NBC is missing the third charac-

ter in this *Mod Squad*. Maybe we've just had too many layovers at LAX to want to spend another hour there, but we find this both too slick and not taut enough to thrill. It's no *Without a Trace*, more like *Crossing Jordan*.

Other reality series last week: *Renovate My Family*, which has real guilty-pleasure potential. The goal on another reality series on ABC, *The Benefactor*: money, natch. Doesn't look that compelling, and comes up against one of the best reality shows, NBC's *The Apprentice*, which looks to be even more dastardly than last season. ABC is bringing back *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. But will Fox bring back its little-people version, *The Littlest Bachelor*?

*Survivor-Vanuatu* promises new wrinkles in the tried-and-true ratings-grabber returning to CBS on Sept. 16. These South Pacific islands midway between Fiji and the West Coast of Australia boast fire gods and cannibalism. Contestants usually have to do challenges related to local culture, so we can only guess at what's in store for the survivors this time around. As usual, lots of hard bodies in skimpy outfits with lots of intrigue and back-stabbing.

Another show to watch on CBS, the network no one over 10 or under 65 watches, is the new

as bad as it sounds. Not slick and sassy like NBC's *Vegas* (which has the sexy Josh Duhamel from *All My Children*), this show, about a doctor in the casinos, is just too silly to last. We can't recommend watching, even for Lowe.

On UPN, *Veronica Mars* starring Kristen Bell could be a new *Buffy*. This show about a 17-year-old girl-turned-detective turns up some dark tales in her little town. Worth a look, even if you're a grown-up. Remember how we loved *Dawson's Creek*?

We'd like the family values set to tune in for the super-hyped *Desperate Housewives*, Sundays on ABC. Starring Felicity Huffman and Teri Hatcher (*Superman*), this bad day in Stepford looks sexy, fun and dark, at least at the outset.

## Shore enough

The best new show of the season and an absolute must-see is *Boston Legal*, also on ABC Sundays. This sort-of-spin-off from *The Practice* stars the phenomenal James Spader reprising his role as the quixotic Alan Shore. Also starring William Shatner in one of the best tour-de-force performances of his long career. Sharp dialogue, terrific stories and steamy undercurrents make this one of the best shows on the tube. Don't miss it.

Many old favorites are still the best on the tube. Among sitcoms, NBC's *Will & Grace* remains tops. NBC also has a lock on the *Law & Order* franchise, which adds a new show this season. Look for a strong queer storyline as *ER* returns and Kerry Weaver (Laura Innes) fights for custody of her son, Henry, from her relationship with Sandy Lopez (Lisa Vidal), who died in a fire last season. Also tune into NBC for a strong new season of *The West Wing*.

ABC's longest-running drama, *NYPD Blue*, begins its final season (no reruns and no interruptions, ABC promises) with some extra shows. This Emmy-winning juggernaut altered the TV landscape in drama, and remains one of the best shows on TV.

The best queer storyline outside of *The L Word* will also be on ABC this season, in daytime. Last week found *One Life to Live* running two gay tales: Marcie's friend Mark is looking for a boyfriend and may have found one, and Marcie's gay brother Eric is coming to town to marry his boyfriend. Last week found Bianca caught in bed with Babe. The two were just setting up Babe's duplicitous husband, JR, but it was a very sexy scene (and true to form, Bianca was on bottom) as the two pretended to be naked in bed together and kissed passionately. Meanwhile, who follows suit into the suite with JR but Maggie, the girl head over heels for Bianca. The fireworks are on ABC daytime — the gay marriage storyline is already causing some furor, and we expect it to heat up as the election approaches.

Finally, as we wrap the summer and leap into the new shows of fall, we can only hope that the ugliness we witnessed during the RNC is not a preview of the fall campaign season. The worst moment was when Dick Cheney's queer daughter, Mary, was conspicuously absent from the stage after his speech. Mary was still in the gallery where she had sat with her straight sister Elizabeth, Elizabeth's husband and children during the speech. The straight daughter, hubby and kids joined Lynn and Dick on stage. Mary stayed in the closet. Nice show of family values from those who trumpet them. Stay tuned! ▼



Lavender Tube

## We've had too many layovers at LAX to spend an hour there on TV.

ter in this *Mod Squad*. Maybe we've just had too many layovers at LAX to want to spend another hour there, but we find this both too slick and not taut enough to thrill. It's no *Without a Trace*, more like *Crossing Jordan*.

One airplane-related drama that we think will hook you, however, is ABC's *Lost*. This thriller about a band of survivors of a plane crash lost on a remote island looks terrific, with its ensemble cast of attractive relative unknowns. Think *Jurassic Park* meets *Survivor*. On Wednesdays.

Also on ABC Wednesdays is a reality show we have to admit got us hooked when we previewed it. *Wife Swap* (not quite as sexist as it sounds) is a little like ABC's other hot-ticket reality series, *Extreme Makeover*, with some *Dr. Phil* tossed in. Wives and mothers trade families to see how the other half lives. The results aren't pretty, but they are voyeuristically satisfying. ABC's promos have noted it's the original, because Fox stole the idea and presented it this summer as *Trading Spouses*, a much raunchier, Jerry Springer version of the same show, which still airs. Fox sneak-previewed an-

sitcom *Center of the Universe*, which also stars John Goodman (talk about hedging one's bets: two sitcoms in one season) and Jean Smart (*Designing Women*). About a working-class couple whose effete young son is not following in the blue-collar footsteps. Has true hilarity potential and some queerish moments. Think *Frasier* as a child.

Listen Up, also a CBS sitcom, stars Jason Alexander (*Seinfeld*), who is incapable of *not* being funny. Also family schtick, but amusing.

Can we believe we are suggesting yet another show on CBS? Those hooked on the grisly *CSI* franchise get another one with *CSI: NY*. The latest proffers hard-boiled Gary Sinise and the winsome Melina Kanakaredes (*Providence*). These two strong actors plus NYC equals a sure-fire hit for the top-rated drama franchise.

Much as we like Rob Lowe (even after his support of the Arnold for Governor), we really think he should have stayed with *The West Wing*. Last season he had an abortive turn in a good but ill-fated NBC drama, *Lyon's Den*, and this season he debuts in a dramedy on CBS called *Dr. Vegas*, which

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## MUSIC

# Latin heat

by Gregg Shapiro

**W**e can count on the music of Latin America to generate some heat as the summer winds down, and the cooler temperatures of autumn head this way.

*The Girls from Ipanema* (Pure Brazil/Universal/Mercury) is a good place to start, since it focuses on the first wave of bossa nova vocalists who landed on our shores during the 1960s and continued through the '70s. Led by Astrud Gilberto (singing Jobim's "Dreamer") and including Gal Costa, Elis Regina, Doris Monteiro, Miucha and others, this collection highlights the timeless quality of the music. That point is driven home with album closer, "Tanto Tempo," sung by Bebel Gilberto, daughter of Miucha and Joao Gilberto, from her 2000 album of the same name.

Four years after her acclaimed debut disc, Bebel Gilberto has returned with her triumphant self-titled sophomore effort (Six Degrees Records). The exotic edge that made her debut album so appealing is still there, but it is combined with an accessibility that is certain to benefit Gilberto and her listeners. Opening with the alluring "Baby," Gilberto kicks into high gear on the seductive, rhythmic "Aganju." Like the Brazilian female vocalists who preceded her, Gilberto understands the value of music without borders, and songs such as "Cada Beijo," "Ceu Distante," and "Next to You" all fit that description.

Rosa Passos pays a loving tribute to the bossa nova legend Joao Gilberto on her CD *Amorosa* (Sony Classical). A nod to Gilberto's landmark 1977 album *Amoroso*, Passos' disc includes her interpretations of songs such as "Besame Mucho," "Retrato em Branco e Preto," and



"S'Wonderful."

Like Bebel Gilberto, Maria Rita, the daughter of Elis Regina, has an impressive pedigree. On her self-titled debut album (Warner Music Latina), Maria Rita performs a selection of well-chosen covers and tunes by young songwriters, resulting in a jazzy, laid-back album.

Ana Caram's *Hollywood Rio* (Chesky) also has a distinctive jazz quality to it. Caram transforms contemporary American pop standards associated with movies ("The Summer Knows," "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head," "As Time Goes By," "Smile," and "The Shadow of Your Smile") and stops by the Rio lounge for a bit of refreshment with them.

Portuguese fado singer Cristina Branco gets poetic on her CD *Sensus* (Universal Classics). Branco's husband Custodio Castelo set poems by William Shakespeare and David Mourao-Ferreira, among others, to music, and Branco infuses them with her distinctive vocals.

Expanding the palette a bit, *Women of Latin America* (Putumayo) draws on the landscape that stretches from Mexico to Chile, with points in-between. Among the performers are names many will recognize, including

Lila Downs ("Icnocuicati") and Lhasa ("La Frontera"), both from Mexico, and Susana Baca ("Caras Lindas") from Peru. Other performers worth getting to know include Brazilians Adriana Calcanhotto ("Justo Agora") and Monica Salmaso ("Dancap"), Peruvian Tania Libertad ("Anda Mareado") and Colombian Toto La Momposina ("Yo Me Llamo Cumbia").

## Swat's happenin'

Two of the most exciting Latin-music bands, Aterciopelados, from Colombia, and the New York-based Mosquitos, can be heard on the compilation *Nuevo Latino* (Putumayo). Mosquitos have also just released an excellent second album, *Sunshine Barato* (Bar/None). Primary vocalist Juju Stulbach, Chris Root and Jon Marshall Smith shine up the elements that made their debut album, a combination of New York indie pop and Brazilian bossa nova, such a pleasure. From the radiant title track through the near surf-beat of "Xixizinho no Oceano" to the subtle new-wave thump of "Blue Heart," Mosquitos fly high.

From Argentina, Juana Molina has toured with electronica artists Savath & Savalas and Scottish critics' darlings Belle & Sebastian, and was on the roster at this year's prestigious Coachella Music & Arts Festival. She has earned a respectable following among musical hipsters, but she also deserves a wider listening, and the lovely, daring, but accessible *Tres Cosas* (Domino) should do the trick.



Standouts include the title track, "Salvese Quien Pueda," and "Isabel."

Possibly the most successful Latino band since Los Lobos, Los Lonely Boys (Garza brothers Henry, Jojo and Ringo) have a hit single and video, "Heaven," from their self-titled Epic records debut album, and the Tex-Mex trio show no signs of slowing down.

Incorporating funk and ska into their *rock en Español* style, Los Mocosos offer listeners plenty of opportunities to dance, on their third album *American Us* (Six Degrees). The San Francisco-based sextet knows the value of a good beat, especially a good Latin beat, as you can hear on "Amigos y Amantes," "Senor Presidente," and "Bacalao."

So as not to lose any steam from its 2003 debut *La Revancha Del Tango*, tango revisionists Gotan Project have released a remix disc, *Inspiracion-Espiracion* (XL), featuring "new tracks, remixes and funky tangos."

Jazz bassist Charlie Haden goes south of the border for the inspiration for his *Land of the Sun* (Verve) CD. A collaboration with Gonzalo Rubalcaba, the album features compositions by Jose Sabre Marroquin, Augustin Lara and Armando Manzanero. ▼

# Song-filled spin-off

'Will & Grace: Let the Music Out' on CD

by David Nahmod

**F**or a show as popular as *Will & Grace*, there has been remarkably little tie-in merchandise available. Merchandising possibilities for a sophisticated comedy geared to an older audience are probably somewhat limited.

But now, to coincide with the show's new season, BMG Music & NBC Entertainment offer the CD *Will & Grace: Let the Music Out!* This compilation of 15 songs — some overly familiar tunes that were heard on the show, plus a few original tracks "inspired" by the show — is an enjoyable but not terribly memorable souvenir of this groundbreaking sitcom.

Some of the choices are obvious but good. Gloria Gaynor's classic "I Will Survive" is not only a great gay anthem, it's a tune that tells a sad tale about the show's always-unlucky-in-love title characters. Cher's "Gypsies Tramps & Thieves," one of her better early hits, is a nod to Jack's idol, and to one of the show's funniest guest-cameos.

Openly bisexual gay-rights advocate Megan Mullally joins Carly Simon on a new recording of Simon's "The Right Thing To Do." It's a lovely track, and Mullally, who began in Broadway musicals, has a beautiful voice. Her solo album, *Big as a Berry*, is highly recommended.

I don't recall hearing Queen's "You're My Best Friend" on the show, but the song is a nice tribute to the enduring love and friendship of the leads. Elton John's "The Bitch Is Back" could be Karen's song, though Karen (Mullally) is clearly a bitch with a heart of gold.

Britney Spears' "Oops! I Did It Again!" recalls the hilarious scene from the show in which Jack tries



to teach Grace some of Spears' dance moves. But now that *Fahrenheit 9/11* has revealed Spears to be a pro-Bush supporter of the Iraq War, her music is impossible to enjoy on any level — not that she was producing any masterpieces to begin with.

"He's Hot!" features many of the show's funnier one-liners from the four leads, all set to club music. Our Will, occasional Broadway star Eric McCormack — hot bod, handsome face, great pipes — joins composer/keyboardist Barry Manilow for the disc's one original composition, the lovely "Living with Grace." It's a gay man's ode to his straight best friend, and expresses the deep love that Will and Grace (Debra Messing) have always felt for each other, a love that can only be platonic.

Also available is *Will & Grace's Season Two* box set (BMG). Though missing the cast interviews that added so much to the *Season One* disc, these earlier episodes are *W&G* at its most brilliant.

My favorite: Jack and Karen (who deserve their own show) visit an ex-gay ministry, where Jack (Sean P. Hayes) intends to seduce the Pastor (Doogie Howser's Neil Patrick Harris). They are greeted by the church's most "successful" married couple: the butchest dyke and the nelliest queen you've ever seen ("Can you believe that we used to be gay?"). ▼

# IT'S ALL ABOUT

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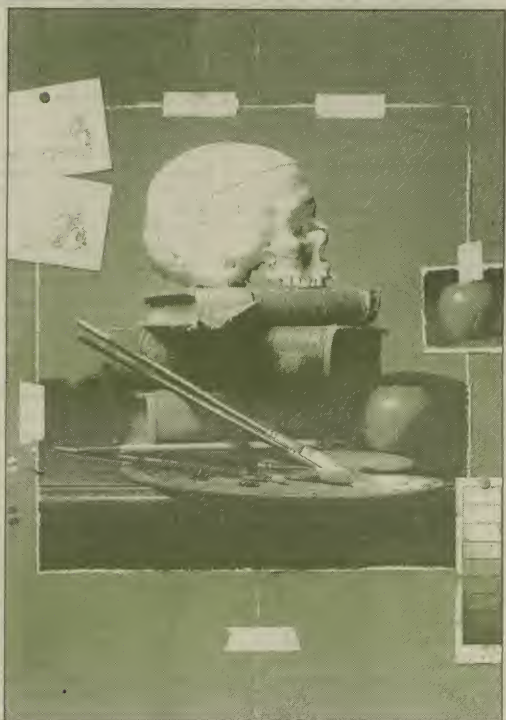
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# OUT & ABOUT



"Orchestrating the Drama," oil on panel, 2004, by Anthony Waichulis, part of *Trompe l'Oeil* at John Pence Gallery through Oct. 9. See Tuesday.

## Fri 10

### Frame by Frame @ Brava Theatre Center

HBO along with the Film Arts Foundation will present the 3rd annual *SF Frame by Frame* Documentary Film Series, taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This year's program includes 8 shorts and 8 features, plus filmmaker Q&As with Kirby Dick (LA), Arlene Donnelly Nelson (LA), Ruth Gurnit (Bay Area), Sara MacPherson (Bay Area), David Nelson (LA), and Eddie Schmidt (LA). Tonight at 5 p.m.: *A Day's Life: A Documentary* (36 min.) by Gayle Kirschenbaum; *Sister Rose's Passion* (39 min.) by Oren Jacoby; and *Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and the Karen Refugees from Burma* (30 min.) by Ruth Gurnit. At 7 p.m.: *Positively Naked* (38 min.), followed by a "Mingle with the Maker" ses-

sion with Arlene Donnelly Nelson and David Nelson; 9pm: *Unknown Soldier: Searching For A Father* (83 min.) by John Hulme. \$7. Showtimes: Fri., Sept. 10, 5-11pm; Sat., Sept. 11, 11am-11pm; Sun., Sept. 12, 11am-9pm. Brava Theatre Center, 2781 24th St. Tix: Film Arts Foundation at 415-552-8760 or [filmarts.org](http://filmarts.org). Info: Call 415-765-7793 or visit [hbo.com/frame-by-frame](http://hbo.com/frame-by-frame)

### Houston Allred @ Russian River Resort

Make your reservations now for two faaaaaabulous weekends at the Russian River Resort in Guerneville: September 10 & 11 and September 17 & 18. Houston Allred will be performing, with significant other Norman Andersen on guitar and in song, while in-house artist Momi Starr takes a well-earned vacation. The "Triple R," as it's called, is a fun-filled resort in the charming mountain community of

Guerneville on the Russian River about an hour's drive north of SF. Reservations: 707-887-9219 or Toll Free: 800-403-1744. Info: [www.samhoustonallred.com](http://www.samhoustonallred.com); [www.russianriverresort.com](http://www.russianriverresort.com)

### Shotgun Players @ The Thick House

"A troupe of strolling players are they..." the enterprising Berkeley-based company takes the show on the road for a San Francisco season. *Dog Act* by Liz Duffy Adams (a fable presented as post-apocalyptic vaudeville), directed by Kent Nicholson, plays through Sept. 19. The Thick House, 1695 18th St. Reservations or directions: 510-841-6500

### Pageant @ New Conservatory Theatre Center

Pride Season Ten continues with a rowdy farce that covers a lot of sissy ground. Six male beauty queens compete for a crown that will ultimately be bestowed by members of the audience. Previews Sept. 10-17. Pay-as-you-wish community night Thurs. Sept. 16. Opens Sept. 18. Tix: 415-861-8972. [www.ntcsf.org](http://www.ntcsf.org)

## Sat 11

### A Woman's World @ Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club

A Readers' Theater featuring Jewelle Gomez, Michelle Tea, Meliza Bahales, and Lynnee Breedlove. 7:30 p.m., 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tickets (\$20-\$23): [eastbayvoice.org](http://eastbayvoice.org), 510-339-1832.

### Bobby McFerrin @ Cal Performances

In case you were beginning to wonder what ever happened to this amazing musical phenomenon: Don't worry, be happy. After a five-year absence, he's back and he's proud. Performing solo at Zellerbach Hall at 8:00 p.m. on the University of California, Berkeley campus. Tickets: 510-642-9988.

### Gay and Lesbian Sierrans @ Henry Coe State Park

Butch it up, cats and kittens. Take a challenging, 12-mile hike in one of the most picturesque and remote locations in the Bay Area. Meet at the SF Safeway (Church & Market) at 8:15 a.m. for carpooling, or at the park headquarters 10:15 a.m. Bring a lunch, water, money for gas and layered clothing. (You can probably still do white after Labor Day.) More info: [sfday.sierra-club.org/GLS](http://sfday.sierra-club.org/GLS)

### Lavender Seniors East Bay @ San Leandro Community Church

If you're feeling old and in the way, get over it with a pollock (what else?) among friends. An ongoing lunch bunch of GLBTs over 55 are meeting at the Community

Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, at 12 Noon. Call Peggy Moore at 510-667-9655.

### Fauxgirls! @ Marlena's

After a tough day of chores and picking up the dry-cleaning, try a glamorously retro Saturday night with a drag revue. They call it cabaret at its best — we call it a fun way to entertain the out-of-towners. Every second and fourth Saturday at 10 p.m. Marlena's, 488 Hayes Street at Octavia. 415-864-6672.

### Ellen Robinson Quartet @ Savanna Jazz

Ellen Robinson (vocals), Ben Flint (piano), George McNeal (bass) and Donald Bailey (drums) in classic jazz formation. No cover,



Remi Miura, a member of Japanese gagaku orchestra Reigakusha, playing the shō. See Sunday.

8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Savanna Jazz Supper Club, 2937 Mission St. at 26th St. Info: [ellenrobinson.com](mailto:ellenrobinson.com)

## Sun 12

### Chaka Khan/ Michael Franks @ 2004 Jazz On the River

For world-class jazz in a spectacular setting, get yourself in a Russian River state of mind. Catch the legendary Chaka and sweet-voiced Michael Franks from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 at the gate. Johnson's Beach, Guerneville. A real end-of-summer blast. 510-655-9471; [JazzOnTheRiver.com](http://JazzOnTheRiver.com)

### PFLAG San Francisco @ St. Francis Lutheran

After the past couple of months, you might still be wondering, "Whither gay marriage?" Author Davina Kotulski is taking a stronger stand with her lecture, "Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage." 3-4:00 p.m. 152 Church Street (at Market) Info: 415-921-8850

### In The Jeans @ The Edge

Yippee! They're still showin' baskets at benefit beer busts! \$7.00 admission includes a raffle (Grand prize: DVD player). Mr. Cowboy Stephen Taylor hosts the event for Magnet, with other prizes provided by local Castro merchants and restaurants. 4149 18th Street from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

### Reigakusha @ Cal Performances

Internationally acclaimed Gagaku orchestra performs exquisite Imperial court music and newly-commissioned works for ancient instruments. Reigaku and Gagaku are a living Japanese tradition. A pre-concert lecture will help get novices up to speed. 3:00 p.m. in charming Hertz Hall on the Berkeley campus. Call 510-643-6707.

### Gay Men's Chorus @ California Hornblower

End your Sunday with a sunset cruise. "Almost Anything Goes" features vocal ensem-

bles, jazz band, casino games, dinner buffet, dessert and Empress Donna Sachet. To and from Pier 33. A civilized way to kick off the 27th season — Cole Porter would have approved. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Embarcadero at Bay Street. Info & tix: 415-865-3650, [www.sfgmc.org](http://www.sfgmc.org)

## Mon 13

### Mariama Whyte @ Empire Plush Room

Empire Plush Room and Legacy Entertainment present a very special concert featuring Mariama Whyte making her Empire Plush Room debut. Come take a journey with Ms. Whyte as she shares stories of her life in song; performing original music from her CD, *Into the World*. Ms. Whyte performs nightly with the cast of Disney's *The Lion King*, currently playing at the Orpheum Theatre. Whyte will humor, provoke, and enlighten your soul. Proceeds from the evening benefit The Center For Your Women's Development ([www.cyd.org](http://www.cyd.org)), tickets are \$25. 8 p.m. showtime. The Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 415-885-2800; [www.empire-plushroom.com](http://www.empire-plushroom.com)

### Angie Krass @ QComedy

QComedy presents Monday Night Gay Com-

edy at the LGBT Community Center, this month hosted by Angie Krass. Plus Betsy Salkind, Marty MacGibbon, Erin Souza, Lisa Geduldig, Blake, Kelly Doyle, Carol Andrezs, and Bridget Schwartz. Krass is a.k.a. The Mississippi Madam of Mayhem! Abandoning her childhood dream of becoming an evangelical choir singer or a prostitute, Angie Krass instead chose a life of Comedy. What's the difference, really? She's usually found spreading her rambunctious humor and storytelling from the pulpits of QComedy, The Russian River Resort and North Beach Studios. She's currently working on her one-woman show "Jesus Saves, and So Can Gays!" \$8-\$15 sliding cash (NOTAFLIP). Reception at 7:30 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-541-5610; [www.QComedy.com](http://www.QComedy.com)

### Berkeley Symphony @ Zellerbach Hall

Maestro Kent Nagano heads home from his international duties to conduct the first concert of the Berkeley season. Bach and Beethoven share the bill with the U.S. premiere of Unsuk Chin's Violin Concerto. Viviane Hagner is the soloist. 8:00 p.m. [www.berkeleysymphony.org](http://www.berkeleysymphony.org). 510-841-2800

### Dave Eggers, Daniel Handler @ Herb's Theater

City Arts & Lectures presents authors Dave Eggers and Daniel Handler in a conversation entitled, "There Are No Children Here." 8 p.m. Herb's, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tickets (\$18.50): 415-392-4400

## Tue 14

### California Design 2004 @ 600 Townsend

View the latest in furniture design and decorative objects from Left Coast artists on the cutting edge. New work from many pioneers of California's contemporary craft movement, as well as debut offerings from young never-before-exhibited designers. From Sept. 10 through Oct. 22. Mon. through Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sat., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Info:



"View of Milk Street Boston, 2003" by Nicholas Nixon, at Fraenkel Gallery through Oct. 30. See Tuesday.





Mr. Cowboy Stephen Taylor, Emperor Fernando, Empress China Silk and the Court of Love present In the Jeans at The Edge. See Sunday.

www.baulinescraftguild.org, or call 415-458-3535.

#### Trompe l'Oeil @ John Pence Gallery

A partial list of twenty-five artists are mentioned by the gallery for this invitational exhibition of eye-fooling paintings. A fascinating glimpse into current trends. Monday through Friday until Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 750 Post Street, San Francisco 415-441-1138. www.johnpence.com

#### Nicholas Nixon @ Fraenkel Gallery

If you're spending Tuesday on a gallery crawl, stop by Fraenkel Gallery through Oct. 30 for a glimpse of this photographer's starkly appealing city views. 49 Geary Street San Francisco. 415-981-2661

#### Lesbian Pulp @ Citizen Cupcake

Filmmakers Nanci Gaglio and Dorothy Fernandez of festival favorites, *Pussies from Outer Space* and *Love Life* invite you to join them in the cafe of the Virgin Megastore on Market. Celebrate their latest project, *Streetslight*, based on works of pulp author Ann Aldrich, AKA Vin Packer (*The Evil Friendship & Spring Fire*). Guest appearances by Marga Gomez, Susan Stryker and Liz Green. 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Virgin, Third Floor, Stockton and Market Sts.

#### Rent Girl @ Foto-Grafix

Foto-Grafix Books and the Cartoon Art Museum host authors Michelle Tea and Lauren

McCubbin for a slide presentation of their new book, *Rent Girl*, followed by a signing session. Like Phoebe Gloeckner's *Diary of a Teenage Girl*, this is a young dyke's adventures in and out of the sex industry on both the East and West coasts. Due to adult content, guests must be 18 or accompanied by a parent or guardian. 7:00 p.m. Cartoon Art Museum 655 Mission Street. Call 415-CAR-TOON.

## Wed 15

#### 'Apples & Honey' Jewish New Year @ Herbst Theater

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ) presents an "Apples & Honey" Jewish New Year Celebration and Evening Service. Join CSZ for *shofar* (ram's horn) blowing, apples, honey, and making new friends. Some traditions of this holiday are hearing the trumpet-like sound of a *shofar* and eating apples dipped in honey, a symbol of the wish for a sweet New Year. This Jewish holiday marks the creation of the world, and it can also be a special time of reflection and self-evaluation. CSZ Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and the High Holiday Musical Ensemble will lead a prayer service that focuses on introspection, spiritual growth and social responsibility. The congregation will sponsor an *oneg* (social hour) in the Green Room at the Herbst Theater following the prayer service. CSZ is a progressive Reform syna-

gogue, established in 1977, comprised of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Jews, together with lovers, families and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish. 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$100 in advance, available on the Web at: [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org) or call 415-861-6932 x111

#### 'Smack Dab' @ Magnet

*Smack Dab*, the Castro's open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts, this month featuring musician Jim e Sparkle Pants and spoken word artist Julia Serano. Sparkle Pants recently released the Jim e Sparkle Pants CD which includes selections of his best songs and poems from the past 20 years, including "Fuck Me Lovingly," "The Rosebud Lullaby," and "I Love My Armpits." His lyrics range from blatantly sexual, to celebrations of subtle aspects of daily life, all reflecting a radical, loving heart. Oakland-based poetry slam champion Serano ([www.juliaserano.com](http://www.juliaserano.com)) has self-published chapbooks and contributed articles and poems to queer, feminist, pop culture magazines and literary journals. As a musician, she is the lyricist/guitarist/vocalist for the noisy pop trio Bitesize. Julia is also the host of *GenderEnders*, a trans/intersex/genderqueer-focused performance show. Free. 7:30 p.m. Sign-Up, show starts at 8 p.m. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn. Castro & Collingwood). Info: [www.magnetsf.org](http://www.magnetsf.org); email [kirkread@earthlink.net](mailto:kirkread@earthlink.net)

## Thu 16

#### Gay Artists and Writers Collective @ Patisserie Cafe

DJ Jon MesSugar wants you to spend Rosh Hoshanah with him at a trendy cafe. Hang with other queers in the performing arts and try a hip-hop hora. 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. 1155 Folsom Street. Info: GAWK 415-731-2424.

#### Blair Mastbaum @ ADL Bookstore

The author of *Clay's Way* reads from the novel in which 15-year-old Sam becomes obsessed with 17-year-old surfer Clay. Free. 7 p.m., A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891

## WANNA SUBMIT?

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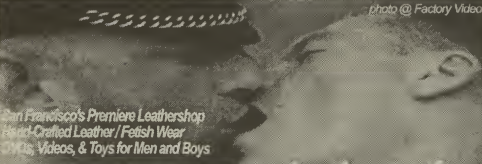
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# Leather judges named

by Mister Marcus

The Mr. San Francisco Leather Contest committee released the names of the judges for the contest taking place on Saturday, Sept. 25, the day before the Folsom Street Fair. Dodger Allen (Mr. Powerhouse Leather), Tony Bowser (sponsored by Mister S), Todd Kinard (Mister Edge Leather) and Jay Wagner (Mr. Hayes Valley Leather) will face judges former Leather Daddy Peter Fiske, former Mr. Daddy's Leather Glenn Tanking, AEF Board President Jeff Graff, Ms. Judy Hoenninger, and Troy Anicete in interviews on the Saturday morning of contest day, and go through the leather image, speech and physique categories that night.

As instituted two years ago, the audience in attendance will get a chance to vote for their favorite contestant. Those scores will be added to the judges' scores to name the winner. Many out-of-towners, title-holders and interested parties will be here for the step-aside of Mr. SF Leather 2004, Julian Marshburn. The contest starts at 1600 at City Nights

Private Club @ 715 Harrison, and should be over no later than 2000, so you can go out, have dinner and libations, or cruise the leather zones.

## Leather Daddy's Boy XXII

There is always a huge crowd on hand for the annual Leather Daddy's Boy contest, and this past Sunday, Sept. 5, was no different from previous years. In spite of the raging heat wave San Francisco experienced last week, there was a good turnout, and almost \$3,000 was raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund in the contest that saw three boys (Martin Inane, Nick Panozzo and Jorge Vieto, Jr.) face the judges: outgoing boy Joey, former Leather Daddies Jason Ladd and Andre English, and Jack Garcia with leather author Race Bannon.

Leather Daddy Doug Mezzacappo and former Mr. Edge Leather Scott Brogan shared MC honors, and food was provided by Peter Fiske. Suzy Wong and Keith Truitt greeted beer bust fans at the gate, and the somewhat unruly crowd (when they were listening) cheered on the boys all afternoon. Even Mr. Leather Germany, Philip Tanzer, was on hand, visiting his

"squeeze," who lives here. Philip was obliged to help pull raffle tickets for prizes given away that afternoon.

Joey Seguierra gave a 7-minute step-aside speech thanking all who supported his year with the title, and at almost 1800, tally-master David Meyer delivered the envelope to the stage. Shrieks, cheering and whistling erupted when Jorge Vieto, Jr. was announced as the winner of the SF Leather Daddy's Boy XXII title.

Boy Joey placed the medal around Jorge's neck and the title sash on his shoulders. Camera-bulbs flashed, people rushed to the stage, and it was all over until next year. The good news about the whole thing is that some \$3,200 was raised at the event. It was a rousing good afternoon, and kudos to all who were involved, especially to the volunteers. After the Eagle event, lots of people rushed to Daddy's bar, where Mark Paladini was hosting a "Hooters" event, with lots of fun stuff going on. It was a rewarding Labor Day Sunday for the natives and tourists alike. All this in "The City That Knows How."

## Southern decadence

Meanwhile, in New Orleans,

next page ►



Jorge Vieto, Jr. was chosen as San Francisco Leather Daddy's Boy XXII by the judges last Sunday, September 5, at the Eagle Tavern.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Saturday, September 11

Forum of SF Progressive dinner starts at 1800-1900 at the Powerhouse for soup and salad; 1900-2000 for the main entrée at the Eagle Tavern; dessert and after-dinner drink at the Lone Star — all for only \$10. Tickets available at the first stop, if you can't find a Forum member.

In Portland, Oregon, it's the Kinky Karnival, with all sorts of events planned from Noon to 1800 at the Scarlett Ballroom, and it's only \$1, that's right, \$1 to get in. Drop in if you're in the vicinity.

### Wednesday, September 15

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight, with doors open from 2100 to 2300. For info, call 777-HEAD.

### Friday, September 17

Hands-on Flogging Lab (with Midori!) at the SF Exiles monthly gathering at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930, program at 2000. Learn details, techniques, strokes and proper whip selection.

### Saturday, September 18

It's Hayward Pride on Main Street in Hayward, with live entertainment, food, DJs, dancing and California's only nighttime Pride Celebration. For more info, surf to: [www.HaywardPride.org](http://www.HaywardPride.org).

In San Jose, LeatherMasters hosts a sidewalk sale and BDSM Fair from Noon to 1800, with scores of BDSM experts and clubs, and it's free!

### Sunday, September 19

SF Leather Pride Week "officially" begins today with the Leather Walk from the Castro to SOMA gathering around 1100, and the raising of the Leather Pride Flag in Harvey Milk Plaza. Make your pledges now! At the Eagle, 1500, six of the 2005 Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off by Lenny Broberg. Be there!

### Wednesday, September 22

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison tonight, with doors open from 2000 to 2300. Strict dress code. No cologne! For info, call 777-HEAD.

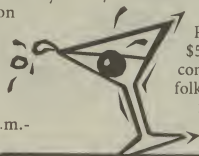


## POLKSTRASSE

## Cinch in the city

by Sweet Lips

One of the all-time most popular bars on Polk Street, the Cinch Saloon, is owned by Robbie and Bob, and they certainly are carrying on the tradition of having the friendliest staff in town. Ronnie "Ya hear me" Lynn is behind the bar mornings 6 a.m.-Noon, then it's Jim Manges from Noon to 7 p.m., followed by Tim Fillman, a sexy and hunky guy who I really love. So head down to the Cinch and have a



Cocktail Hour

drink with lots of interesting people.

A Celebration of Life party for Tom Wasakii will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Club Rendez-Vous.

The August 28-29 Sidewalk Sale on Pine Street raised over \$5,500, with more to come. Thanks to all the folks who volunteered for this great fundraiser.

What price fame? It seems Greta "Gaston" Grass had a hurricane named after her, and yes, that is her real name.

The Twin Peaks on Castro is

still one of the nicest bars in the city to have a drink and watch the world go by. Kimo's still has the fabulous J.D. on the plank four mornings a week, Mon.-Thurs., and he's looking mighty fine. The 'N Touch bar is certainly taking a long time getting their new room completed, and with the crowds they get at night, they certainly need the space.

Happy birthday on Sept. 12 to our favorite Pine Street Postmistress, Ms. Linda Miller. Don't see much of you these days, but think of you often. Jay "Ethel" Noonan, you're looking great, and it's always nice to see you. Remember, fall is coming, so be sure to get your flu shots! ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

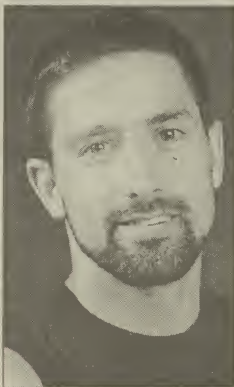
the Southern Decadence weekend was in progress in that sweltering city, and with it, the Mr. Louisiana Leather contest. I don't have all the details, but know that Alan Bowers (quite a hunk!) is Mr. Louisiana Leather 2005. The 1st runner-up was Jared Keen, and the 2nd runner-up was Billy Stevens. Mr. Bowers advances to compete for IML 2005 next May.

In Montreal, the MC Faucon staged their annual Mr. Montreal Leather contest over the past weekend in Montreal, and yet another hunk prevailed over six other contestants. That would be Mark LeGault (no relation to "Squeaky" LeGault), who also advances to compete at IML 2005. The race is heating up, and the sash on IML Jason Hendrix is barely cooling off. From where

I'm standing, IML 2005 should be a feast, a big feast, of eye-candy.

## DIMBY (Definitely In My Back Yard)

There are a thousand and one events scheduled for Leather Pride Week, beginning with the Leather Walk on Sunday, Sept. 19, and the always-electrifying raising of the Leather Pride Flag up the flagpole in Harvey Milk Plaza. So gear up for exhaustion if you plan to participate. A new Mr. San Francisco Leather will be chosen, and the Folsom Street Fair will again take the stage of the leather universe as the biggest leather celebration in the world. Hope to see you all around and about that entire week. Until next week, keep living, keep laughing, keep loving, and be sure to do it in leather! For news about leather communities around the world, be sure to surf to [www.L LeatherPage.com](http://www.L LeatherPage.com) every week. ▼



Mark Legault was chosen Mr. Montreal Leather 2005 over six other contestants in Montreal on Saturday, Sept. 4. He advances to compete for the IML 2005 title next May.

ted the Lady Bunny and entourage, resplendent in full drag and florid protest. The diva Bunny, Linda Simpson and Miss Understood sported signs that read, "The Republican Potty Stinks!" (while spraying a can of air-freshener) and "Sex Change for Regime Change!" They shouted, "Support peace or we'll kill you!" and "Transsexuals for change!" We've just had a political epiphany: Lady Bunny for President! Is it too late to get her into the debates?

## Press for play

Like many of you, Out There can only remain high-minded for so long. Then we like a little spice. That's why we loved the "Magazine Editor: Hot or Not?" contest that *Media Bistro* ran this summer. Readers were asked which editor they would do the wild thing with, presented in the rather specific categories Women, Straight Men and Gay Men. Wait, aren't there any lesbian magazine editors around? *MB* also included a Legends category, stocked with famous figures like Hugh Hefner (*Playboy*) and Diana Vreeland (*Vogue*). Uh, we'll pass, though we have heard that the sight of Mrs. V. eating a banana was quite a thing to behold.

But let's cut to the chase: who was "hot or not" on the gay buffet? None other than VIP editors Ariel Foxman (*Cargo*), Adam Moss (*New York*), Maer Roshan (*Radar*) and Jann Wenner (*Rolling Stone*). OT says, We'd have a go at any of these gentlemen, but only on spec. Meanwhile, *BAR* readers should feel free to send in the names of Arts



First, Munch's "The Scream." Now this; Gaskin's "Madonna" is lifted.

◊ Entertainment contributors whom they would do, and we'll see what we can do.

## Criminal world

SF artist Tim Gaskin reports that his portrait of Madonna, replete with background Louis Vuitton logos, was stolen from the Starbucks coffeshop at 4094 18th St. in the Castro, in a brazen heist perpetrated between Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend. The painting is 3 ft. x 3 ft., in black, gray and white acrylics, with brightly-colored L.V. logos. The artist is offering a reward; any information is appreciated, no questions asked. Call (415) 552-7883.

Meantime, it was a veritable boldface bonanza for gossip core-

spondents at the glamorous opening night of *The Black Rider* at the Geary Theater last week. Seated on the end of our row in the audience was *Home at the End of the World* actress Robin Wright Penn and her hubby, actor/foreign correspondent Sean Penn, who masticated on a wad of gum all night long. Sean: Park it behind your ear!

Spotted at the glam afterparty, held at heterosexual hotspot Ruby Skye: luminary maverick director Robert Wilson, soulful songstress Tracy Chapman, kleptoactress Winona Ryder, and eternal pop-music icon Marianne Faithfull, who bopped by us to the beat in the club's otherwise deserted balcony, all suave charm. ▼

## Castro's Original

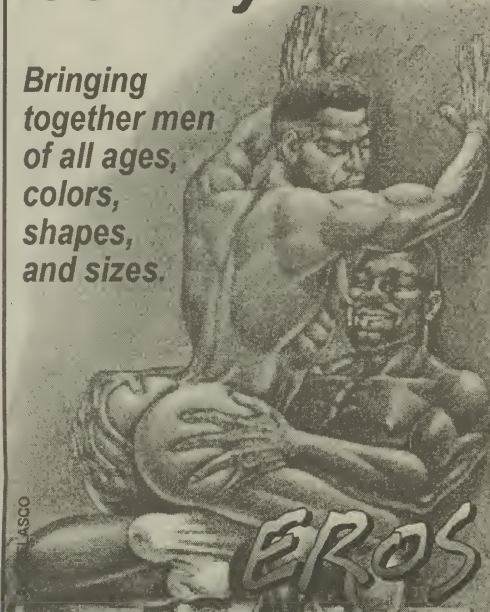
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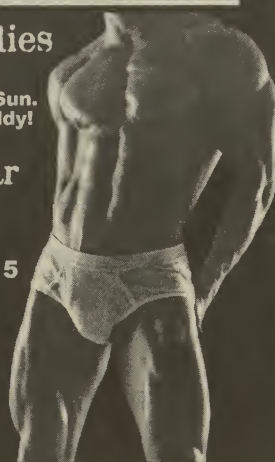
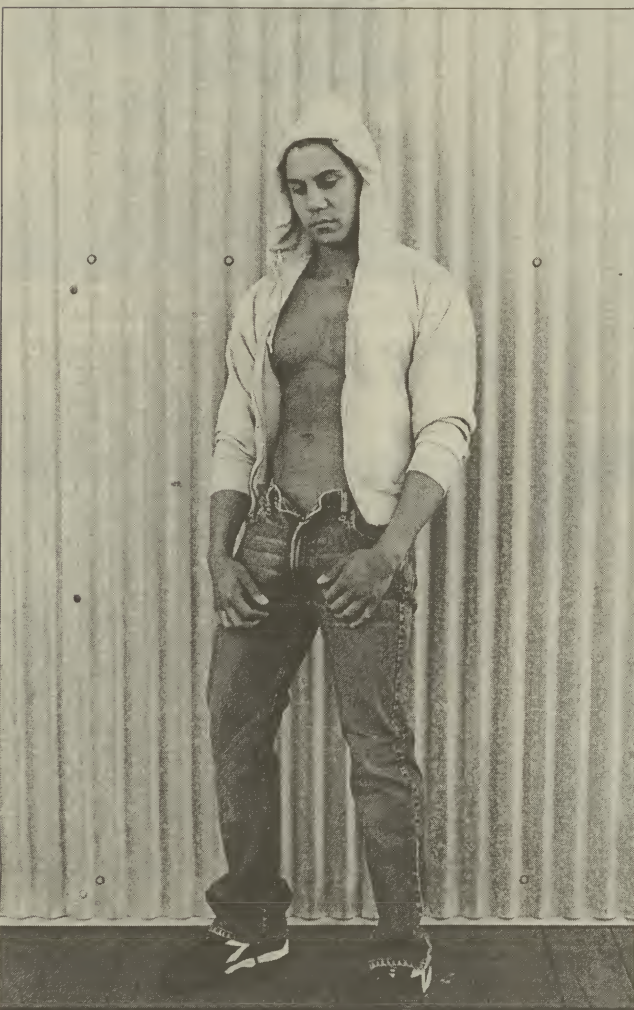


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## PARTING GLANCES

### SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

### Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You: Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

When in the Haight Ashbury Stop by Fell Street. White male, 5'5", 130# Blue eyes, clean shaven, 66 seeks black partner for all the right reasons. You know what it is. ☎ 71367

### R U The Lucky One?

Handsome man, 5'7", 135lbs, well toned and endowed, outgoing. Looking for possible LTR with Latino or Asian, 25-40. In good shape, outgoing, fun. Likes to travel. Send Pics. ☎ 71366

### Cuddly Bear Type

Goodlooking 46yo, 5'9", 185lbs, S&P/Blue. HIV-, stable. Enjoys movies, dining out, music, ocean walks, massage. ISO GWM, GHM, 38-58. Fun loving, caring, stable, HIV-. ☎ 71369

### ASIAN

GAM, mid 50's, good shape, 5'7", loving, affectionate, is looking for an older GWM for companionship, relationship. We enjoy our simple life everyday. No smoking. ☎ 71370

Nice But Lonely in Santa Rosa Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tenerte en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

### Seeking Friendship and More

34, HIV+, Healthy, 150, 5'10", BRN/BRN. Likes movies, music, cooking, fitness, and Sunday mornings in bed. Looking for that special someone who is honest and sincere. Drink and smoke ok. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71375

### Redhead

Santa Rosa native, 43, 5'10", 180#, ex-Navy. Enjoys tennis, chess, talk, radio & reading. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71376

### Seeking Relationship

GWM 48 healthy HIV+ seeking 45 to 55 Black or Latino man HIV+ for companionship and possible LTR. I like going to football, baseball, musicals, and movies. Lonely. ☎ 71377

### Seeking a Friend / Companion

Asian man 65 seeking friend and companion for movie, travel, drives in the country, and intimate moments. Please be trim, muscular, and handsome, under 50. Can we meet and talk. ☎ 71378

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

### FF Top

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### Like to Shave Down?

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### ISO Nipple Workout Buddy

49 yr old GWM, stocky with huge erect nipples, BRN/BRN, salt/pepper goatee, tats, piercings, smoker! ISO masculine, muscular, butch nipple pig. Nip workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions with growth in mind. Smoker A+. Call if interested. ☎ 71381

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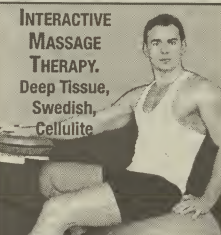


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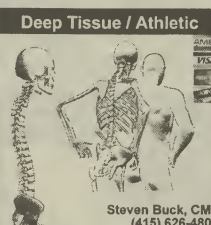
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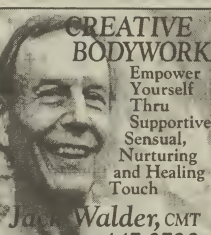
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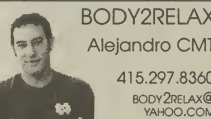
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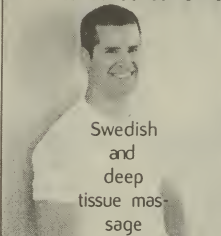
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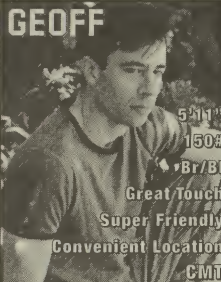
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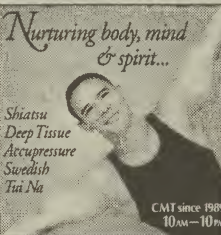
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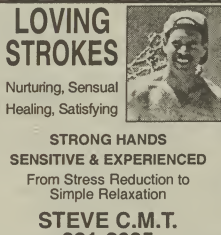


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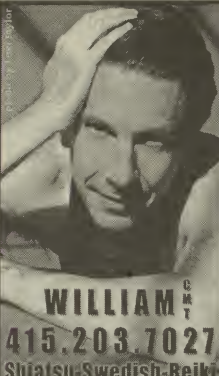
## MASSAGE



swedish,  
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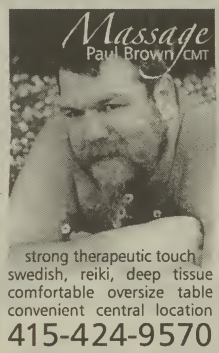
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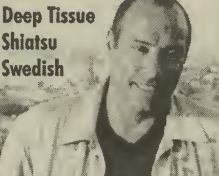


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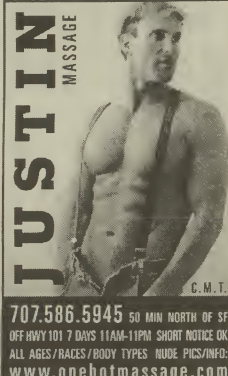
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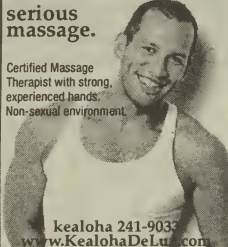
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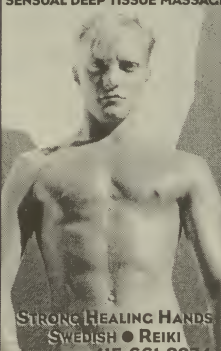
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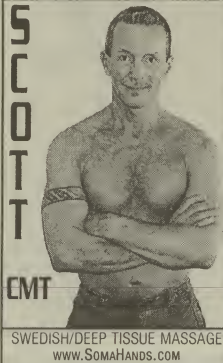
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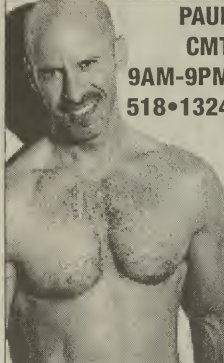
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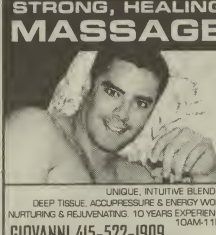


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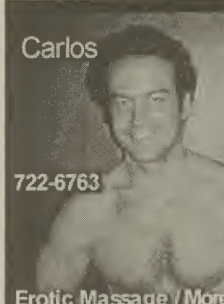
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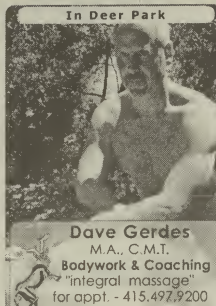
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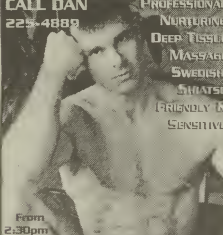
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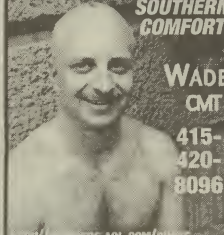


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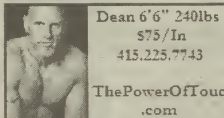
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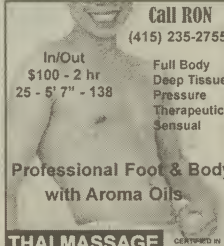
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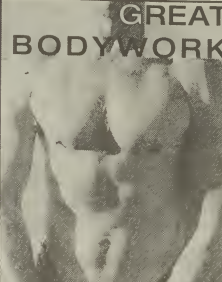
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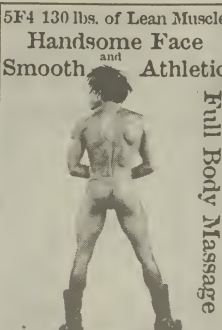
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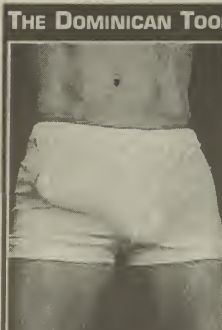
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6'3", 185# Top  
From Mild to Wild.  
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Beginners Welcome

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6' 240#  
Available in  
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DOMINATION  
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BEGINNERS WELCOME!  
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Sexy, Masculine, Buzzcut & Goatee  
**SHVD. HEAD STUD**  
Well-hung, big balls, EZ-Goin' 6ft  
Clint\* 415-540-5311\* in/out, 24 hrs  
see pics at [www.geocities.com/swingonmythings/photopage.html](http://www.geocities.com/swingonmythings/photopage.html)

6'2"/160lbs/Hung 7/Nice Guy/Hot  
**HORNY 21YO WM**  
\$120/hr Out only - in SF City  
**TALL YOUNG HOT**  
\$140 in South/East Bay - Out only  
**415-596-0734 SHAWN**  
**COLLEGE STUD**

Anything Goes Asian 5'7" 135 lbs.  
Tom 415-412-7261

Submit and Surrender  
**RUSSIAN RIVER**  
Leatherman Master--Spanking  
BD/CBT/TT/FF-- Limits respected &  
expanded. Bob 707-865-2093.

**LATINO DADDY BARE**  
Tall, Hung, Handsome Mexican,  
Uncut, Versatile  
Call Joe 415-225-4963

**VERY HARD & BIG**  
Experienced top, well endowed  
Will make you Happy! 207-6486

**SPANK ME 24**  
Attractive Jock (415) 273-5707

**MUSCLE S&M TOP**  
Farmer, 6', 32 yo, well hung. Call  
Brad @ 415-596-4184 SF calls only.

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FF • CBT  
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Professional  
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36/5'8"/150  
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Beginners  
Welcome

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AFFECTIONATE, PASSIONATE  
FRIENDLY, CLEAN, KISSABLE  
26, blo/blu, slim, smooth, bottom!  
No STD's, no drugs, no attitude!  
\$120+ cab. Out only. 415-871-4228.  
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN! • SEAN •

**HOT 24 HUNG LATINO TOP**  
5'8" 150 lbs. Masculine, shaved head  
kinky, sensual, no attitude, hablo es-  
panol. Out calls only. Discreet.  
415-540-1210. Big men welcome.

**SEXY VERSATILE GUY**  
Friendly Latino, smooth body, tan  
slim, clean-cut, gym toned, 26yrs  
5'7", 130#, 7x6 Erik 235-6090

**NEW AFROCUBAN BOY**  
Avail. 24/7 for real safe fun  
and or erotic massage  
I'm 5'7" 130 lbs 8 cut vers/top  
Outcalls  
Call 415-336-4188  
Domingo.

New Man! Muscle Bear Big & Macho  
Time = \$ Chuck 209-481-6361 Eves.

Hot yng ath blk 9"  
Out only Tavin 415-724-2704

**TROUSER TROUT**  
6'3", 190lbs, v.musc., smooth, blond,  
blue. V. good looking, 38yo. Got a  
surprise in my pants. 9.5X7. Open to  
most scenes, prefer top. 24 Hrs.  
415-812-3147

Hot 8" Playtoy/Ken/346-4966/\$80

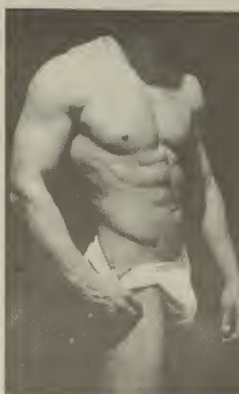
**SAN JOSE BOY**  
[WWW.SJBOY.COM](http://WWW.SJBOY.COM)  
27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair  
Pager/Voice: 888-325-3005

Handsome Hung Daddy gives Erotic  
rub. \$60. Mark 368-4521

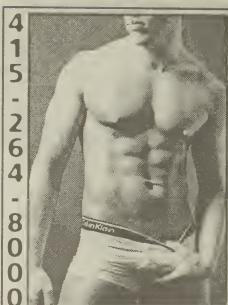
Small FF hands for your relief.  
SF house calls. Morlex 679-3320.



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**NEW IN TOWN!!**  
**LUKE**  
REAL PHOTO,  
BLONDE, BLUE, 22y.o.  
8.5 Thick  
Downtown Location  
In/Out • 24/7  
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**RICARDO**  
25 yo, 5' 10", 175#  
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**FOR MEN 50+**  
MASCULINE TOP MID 40s 6'3" 185"  
ENJOY SCENES FROM SLOW, SENSUAL  
& PASSIONATE TO LEATHER & KINK.  
UNHURRIED & DISCREET.  
EXPLORE SOMETHING NEW WITH ME!  
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**9X7 UC TOP**  
6'2", 165#, Lean swimmers build  
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[www.ThomasEscort.com](http://www.ThomasEscort.com) 415-336-8135

**FISTING TOP**  
29 yo Latin Top Uncut 8" safe 5'7"  
138# VGL Stud \$100 Pgr 313-0347

**HOT GQ MODEL**  
5'8" 160# Bobby 415-424-9879  
Older only.

**BLACK PUERTO RICAN**  
Cute, affectionate, 26yo, 140#, 5'7"  
Vanilla and beyond. 8cut, top  
Eric (415) 929-9430. Out calls only

Tantralyzer-ready 2 have your  
Kundalini raised - Asian 573-5696

**STR8 MASCULINE DOMINANCE**  
5'-9" 185# BI, BI 415-995-7447.

Blond Leather top, 6'2" 180 B.B.  
Buzz cut, go-go dancer. Whips, w/s, s,  
Strip show. Nick 415-908-8606.

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Very handsome sexy classy, will give  
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28yo Dirty White Punk Skin  
6'1" 165# shaved head-blue eyes  
Black boots-In/Out JT 571-0735

Frat Hunk  
Solid/Masculine/Affectionate  
Out 415-640-4045

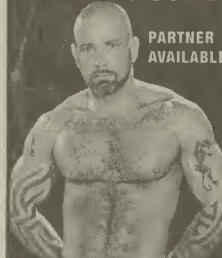
Big, Macho MuscleBear Centerfold  
Time LTD \$ Chuck 209-481-6361 eye

**CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP**  
6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut  
Page 650-523-9133, and massage

**LEATHER TOP!**  
Light to heavy sensual SM  
handsome experienced w/dungeon  
**TOM 415-487-1296**

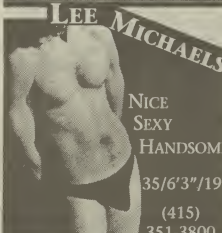
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Gentle strength & arousing edge  
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**LEE MICHAELS**  
NICE  
SEXY  
HANDSOME  
35/6'3"/190  
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**AFFECTION STUD**  
28 GWM 6' 190lbs 32wst Big Legs  
7" cut Hot BubbleButt Cleancut  
Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7  
**PAGE ME (415) 227-7727**

**FIREFIGHTER**  
6'1", 175#, VGL stud, 32 yo, mus-  
cled. Call Jeff at 1-888-699-2325

Mike, 39, 5'10", 190#, BI/Blu  
Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk  
In/Out \$100 (415) 863-8932

**ARAB-AMERICAN FOOT-TOP**  
My 11" Masterful Feet. Pics avbl.  
Email: rickrick1@cs.com

Sexy, Masculine, Buzzcut & Goatee  
**SHVD. HEAD STUD**  
Well-hung, big balls, EZ-Goin' 6ft  
Clint\* 415-540-5311\* in/out, 24 hrs  
see pics at [www.geocities.com/swingonmythings/photopage.html](http://www.geocities.com/swingonmythings/photopage.html)

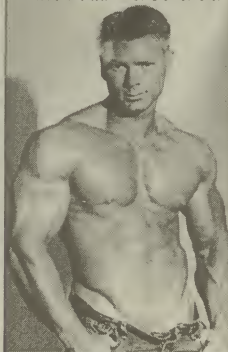
6'2"/160lbs/Hung 7/Nice Guy/Hot  
**HORNY 21YO WM**  
\$120/hr Out only - in SF City  
**TALL YOUNG HOT**  
\$140 in South/East Bay - Out only  
**415-596-0734 SHAWN**  
**COLLEGE STUD**

Anything Goes Asian 5'7" 135 lbs.  
Tom 415-412-7261

Submit and Surrender  
**RUSSIAN RIVER**  
Leatherman Master--Spanking  
BD/CBT/TT/FF-- Limits respected &  
expanded. Bob 707-865-2093.

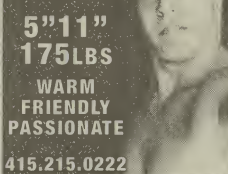
**LATINO DADDY BARE**  
Tall, Hung, Handsome Mexican,  
Uncut, Versatile  
Call Joe 415-225-4963

MY NAME IS BOBBY,  
I'M A FITNESS COVER MODEL  
FROM NEW YORK. I WILL BE IN  
SAN FRANCISCO FOR A VERY  
LIMITED TIME - 9/09-9/14.



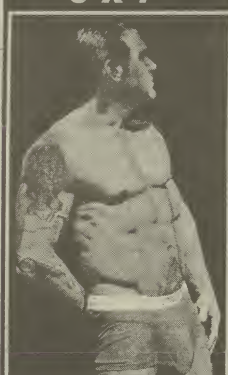
CALL ME FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND RATES  
**917-400-5066**

**CHAD**  
CUTE  
BLOND/BLUE  
5'11"  
175LBS  
WARM  
FRIENDLY  
PASSIONATE



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**MASCULINE, MUSCULAR**  
**HOT AND HUNG**  
**9 x 7**



Friendly, Easygoing, Honest  
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215lbs  
9X7cut  
\$250+  
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**AUSTRALIAN**  
**BRIAN**  
Visiting SF - arriving 9/02  
5'11" • 280LBS  
22" ARMS • 56" CHEST  
**347-804-6859**

## Where to go and what to do with your Escort this week...

### \$\$\$ Restaurants

The Daily Grille - Union Square  
Huge menu and...it's a chain restaurant.  
But, good food and good drinks.  
Rainforest Cafe - Pier 39  
While we're on chains, yeah, it's one too.  
But fun animatronic wildlife and good  
drinks make it a cheesy must visit.

### Not so \$\$\$ Restaurants

Zazie - Cole Valley  
Mochas served in bowls and GREAT food.  
Citrus Club - Haight  
Sake Martini's and spicy eats for cheap!  
Puerto Allegre - Mission  
Two words - Margarita Pitchers!  
Three more...good, cheap food.  
Pork Store Cafe - Haight  
Big portions, small space, cheap prices.

### Bars

Powerhouse - SOMA  
Hot men, hot staff, cheap booze.  
Badlands - Castro  
\$1.25 Domestic Bottles of Beer - 'nuff said  
Edge - Castro  
Muscle Bears, Daddy Bears & cuties plus a  
totally hot staff.  
Daddy's - Castro  
Have you SEEN the staff there? Paul,  
Julian, Ken, Corey, David, etc.-reason  
enough to go!

### (Not Very Uplifting) Movies

Cellular  
Suspect Zero  
The Stander  
Garden State  
We don't Live Here Anymore



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**Free!**  
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San Francisco  
415-402-1010

408-257-4411  
925-426-5588  
650-223-0200  
510-859-2000

Call Toll FREE  
1-800-777-8000

**FREE TRIAL**  
Use Code: 2160

Interactive male

1-900-505-2323 (\$1.99/min) 18+ www.InteractiveMale.com

SAN FRANCISCO  
**SPANK PARTY**  
2ND FRI. EACH MONTH  
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE  
415.864.2766



## Happily Ever After Wanted!

Physically active GWM, HIV-, age 43, S&P hair, brown eyes with a lean build and sense of humor who enjoys romantic evenings, fine dining, the beach, Napa Valley, and the good life. Are you a goal-oriented "nice guy" age 38-48, with a spontaneity gene, who likes his mother and is kind to four-legged animals? Let's nurture a fantastic friendship that grows into a loving relationship worth getting sentimental about. Respond to Ad Code 2746. (Never a charge to respond- FREE)

www.DukePersonalSearch.com

**Hot Local Guys!** MrN

Bay Area's hottest chatline

**Men Meet Men Right Now!**  
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for  
**FREE**

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510-281-2400 650-649-2500 925-955-2000

Rick and Paul are back!  
Powerhouse - Fri & Sat!

## STRICTLY SEX!!

Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.  
Call 415-247-2000 or  
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

## OPERA &amp; SYMPHONY LOVER?

GWM, high-tech professional, 53, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build ISO fellow music aficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! Polite with good social skills, OUT and comfortable, compassionate & easy going. Our client is an Opera fan, loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. San Jose or San Francisco Bay Areas preferred. Visit www.dukepersonalsearch.com client ad 2738. (FREE).

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Bare Assed Spanking  
SF's Best Spanker  
Daddy Howard. 929-1185

GOOD HEAD  
\*826-6858\* CASTRO

Local Men Sexdate: 888-788-8989

## MR. SAN FRANCISCO LEATHER CONTEST IS ON

**SATURDAY, SEP. 25TH.**  
You can enter the competition without going through a bar contest! You can enter without a sponsor. You can enter as an independent. Show your leather pride. Show the world that the best leather community in the US is San Francisco. Be proud of your heritage. Get active. Get involved!

## WANTED!

## BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
  - Meet Ads
  - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours  
\$2.00  
976-7500

**Free**  
(415) 981-8123



## HAPPILY EVER AFTER WANTED

Physically active GWM, HIV-, age 43, S&P hair, brown eyes with lean build and sense of humor who enjoys romantic evenings, fine dining, the beach, Napa Valley, and the good life. Are you a goal-oriented "nice guy" age 38-48, with a spontaneity gene, who likes his mother and is kind to four-legged animals? Let's nurture a fantastic friendship that grows into a loving relationship worth getting sentimental about. Respond to Ad Code 2746. (Never a charge to Respond-FREE).

www.DukePersonalSearch.com

\* Spanking Over Daddy's Knee \*  
Experienced, Safe, Role-play/Real  
415-864-2766 Beginners welcome

## MR SAN FRANCISCO LEATHER 2005

Are you man enough to hold the title?  
Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2004  
The night before Folsom St. Fair

Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days 707-823-3895

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Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.  
Call 415-247-2000 or  
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

## BAY AREA REPORTER

## PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
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## DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

## PAYMENT

Cash  
Personal Check  
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Visa  
MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number  
3-Digit Security Code Expiration Date  
Signature  
Name

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Telephone  
Address  
City State Zip  
Number of Issues Classification Amount Enclosed

## MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

BAY AREA  
REPORTER  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

OR FAX TO:  
415.861.8144



## PERSONALS

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## FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off+ Making \$\$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070.  
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## TOTAL COCKSUCKERS WANTED

Are you addicted to sucking cock? Are you a show off? Look good, be passionate. Email paul@treasureislandmedia.com or call Paul at 415-437-6696 ext #3  
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BOOK YOUR AD SPACE NOW FOR THE ANNUAL FOLSOM STREET FAIR ISSUE.  
STREET DATE: SEPT. 23RD!

## Display Ads

Deadline:

Friday,

September 17th,  
5pm

## Line Ads

Deadline:

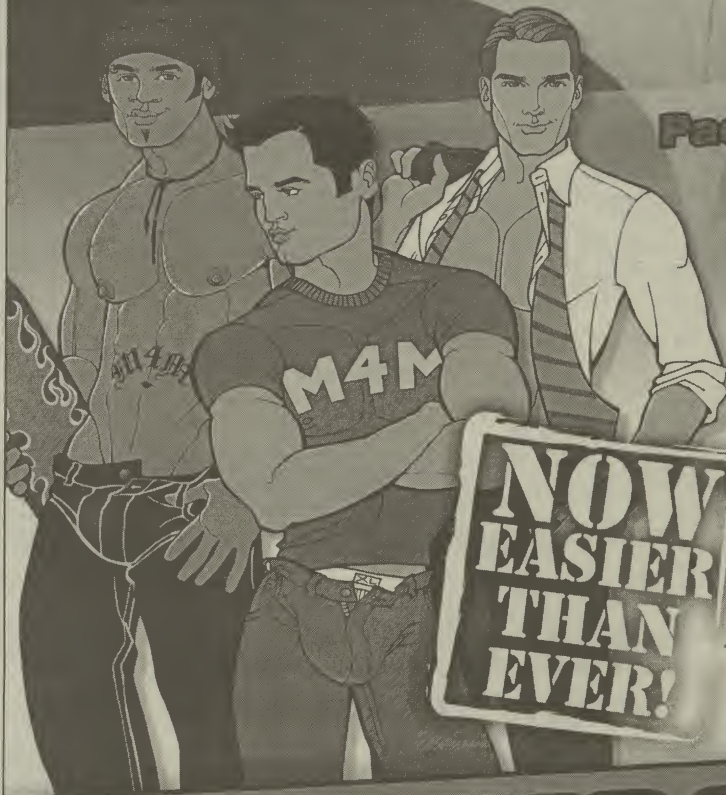
Monday,

September 20th,  
Noon

BAY AREA REPORTER

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New features help you find men faster!

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

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DREGGS of the BUST  
present: a Slutty FOLSOM Engine Party!

Sunday, September 19 8 p.m. - Midnight

55 Benefits: the Center  
\$2 Draft \$4 Shot Special  
DJ: Sean Greene  
Basket Raffle  
Photo Ops by NORM  
Manly ASS Contest  
Hitch-hikin' go-go's

1347 Folsom SF, CA 415-552-8689 powerhouse-sf.com



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Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004

City Nights Private Club  
715 Harrison St @ 3rd St  
Easy Parking in the area

Doors Open: 4 p.m.  
Info: [mrsfleather.com](http://mrsfleather.com)

Presented by

**COLT**  
COLTstudio.com



**Tickets**  
\$15 in advance  
\$20 at the door (cash only)

Advance tickets available at  
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# KINK!